PEA board defies abolition, GMA order to fire execs

Story on PAGE A2

Social workers to go from Pikit to Baghdad

PIKIT-MATA NA LANG KAMI!

By Volt Contreras

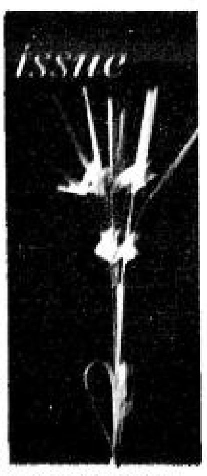
THEIR experience in Pikit (North Cotabato) has prepared them for Baghdad.

A select team of social workers to consist mostly of Muslims who have been immersed in

SOCIAL/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

IN *today's* issue



- **Leaves of passion and celebration** LIFESTYLE/C6
- **Can they rein in Fr. Robert?** SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph April 13, 2003 ★★ 100 pages / 10 sections / vol. 18 / no. 126 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Bush calls, thanks GMA

Fil-Am war casualty gets US citizenship on the spot

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Contributor

SANTA MARIA, California—Under overcast skies, hundreds of mourners gathered here on Friday to bid farewell to Marine Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Menusa, a Filipino who was killed in Iraq while fighting for America.

Family, friends, fellow Marines, war veterans, civic leaders, and even people who hardly knew the 33-year-old Menusa, honored him with flags, flowers, prayers and vows not to forget his sacrifice.

Menusa was born in the Philippines. His family moved to San Jose, California when he was 10.

During the burial, Menusa, a permanent US resident when he was killed, was posthumously awarded American citizenship by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS).

"I'm saddened that my Marine is not going to be around anymore," said Menusa's widow, Stacy, 23, as she held back tears before glaring TV lights during a news conference that followed the memorial Mass and burial rites.

"I'd like to call on his fellow soldiers who are still out there fighting to be proud and be strong."

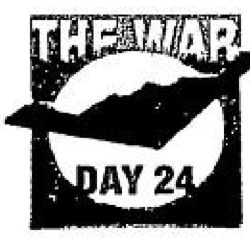
Menusa was killed in action near the city of Nasiriya in southern Iraq on March 27.

FIL-AM/A18

Consoler-in-chief salutes soldiers injured in Iraq

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush on Friday saluted wounded US troops who helped break Saddam Hussein's "grip of fear" on Iraq but said that the "first signs of freedom" there did not mean the war was over.

Completing his first tour of duty as "consoler-in-chief" to soldiers injured in Iraq and their families, Bush said that Saddam was politically dead whatever his precise fate but left declaring victory to US generals in the Gulf.



Bush met with about 40 wounded or injured soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and about 33 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland bestowing 13 Purple Heart medals and watching two Marines—one from Mexico, another from the Philippines, Lance Cpl. O.J. Santamaria—become US citizens. (*See banner story.*)

"It was a very profound moment. We were both honored to have witnessed this," said Bush. Legal permanent residents of the United States can serve in the US military.

One of those who took the oath was a US Marines master gunnery sergeant with shrapnel wounds to his right side and head.

In his first public remarks since US Marines helped exuberant Iraqis topple a massive bronze statue of Saddam in the heart of Baghdad, Bush said he would "never forget" that

CONSOLER-IN-CHIEF/A21

NO WORDS. The family of fallen Fil-Am soldier, Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Menusa, just hold on to each other during funeral rites in Santa Maria, California. In photo are parents Virginia and Michael Kenny and younger son, Marine Sgt. David Menusa.

DOESN'T get any finer than this: The homecoming of a soldier, Squadron Leader Rolfie Dunne of the Royal Air Force, after seeing action in the Iraq front to his wife Becky and two children in Leuchars, Scotland. AP

President forms 2 task forces for Iraq reconstruction

IT WAS an "unexpected" telephone call that President Macapagal-Arroyo received yesterday morning. On the other end of the line was a most appreciative president of the United States.

President George W. Bush thanked President Macapagal for her "early and steadfast leadership on Iraq and expressed appreciation for the Philippines' commitment to provide immediately post-conflict assistance," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer in Washington.

Though Malacañang did not officially announce the call from the US president, a Palace source who described the call as "unexpected" said that it was "essentially a thank-you call. The American president also reminded Ms Macapagal of her state visit to the United States. Ms Macapagal was originally scheduled to go to Washington on April 1-5 but the US strike in Iraq that started on March 20 aborted the trip.

The call of Bush must have buoyed President Macapagal's hopes for substantial involvement in the reconstruction of Iraq.

During a teleconference later in the day, the President said she had formed two task forces: the first to oversee the 500-man inter-agency "humanitarian mission," the other to oversee the government and private sector's roles in the reconstruction.

President Macapagal was among the first leaders to back the US-led war on terrorism following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. She was the only Southeast Asian leader to back the US preemptive strike on Iraq.

According to Fleischer, Bush and Ms Macapagal also discussed developments in the war on terror in the Philippines. "President Bush reaffirmed the strong US commitment to support the Philippines in their efforts to defeat terrorism, and the two leaders agreed to continue to consult closely," Fleischer said.

The two leaders also discussed the Philippines' own war on terror, Fleischer said. US spe-

BUSH/A18

Filipinos asked: Switch channels on Palm Sunday

By Armand N. Nocum

JESUS Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey, not in an Abrams tank. And instead of embedded journalists in tow, the quintessential ambassador of peace and compassion was accompanied by poor, unschooled fishermen who had no way of knowing that four of them would soon be writing what was destined to be the most enduring story of triumph ever told.

Catholic bishops believe the Filipino faithful had best turn their attention away from the Iraq war starting with the commemoration of Palm Sunday today, and concentrate on the "war right outside our doorsteps."

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Week, which culminates in the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, cornerstone of the faith. Traditionally, Catholics crowd churches all over the world to have symbolic welcome-and-praise palms blessed.

In a pastoral letter, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday noted how, for the past few weeks, the whole country has been glued to newspapers and television sets, devouring every available account of the Middle East conflict, forgetting "our own war against poverty and social injustice."

Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas and Bishops Teodoro Buhain Jr., Teodoro Bacani Jr. and Jesse Mercado issued the pastoral letter titled "Love and Justice." It will be read in

FILIPINOS/A18

No confirmed SARS case in RP yet, says WHO

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PHILIPPINES is not among the "SARS-infected" countries because there is no "local transmission" of the disease, but it has now joined the list of 30 countries with suspected or probable SARS cases, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

"No identified contacts have been infected," WHO country representative Dr. Jean Marc Olive said at a press briefing called by the Department of Health. "What is important now is for us to ensure that as in Hong Kong, we know the people he got in contact with and whether they had contracted the disease."

Olive was referring to the first "probable SARS case" in the Philippines, supposedly a German national, announced Friday by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The man, a 64-year-old who makes regular trips to Hong Kong, has recovered, leading Ms Macapagal to say that "we're SARS-free again."

To explain the President's announcement of the first "probable SARS case" here, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the disease was now "considered a national security issue."

Besides, the health secretary said, Ms Macapagal set up the SARS management committee and it was "only fitting that she make that announcement."

NO CONFIRMED/A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/13/03

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Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
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Second FRONT PAGE

PEA board defies GMA order

PRESIDENT'S order clear: Fire them

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A DEFIANT Public Estates Authority board has decided to leave the agency's abolition to Congress and merely put in the "freezer" five officials fired by President Macapagal-Arroyo in November last year.

The PEA board met Friday after the President had demanded to know from general manager Teodorico Taguinod the status of her order firing the five officials and abolishing the agency.

She had issued the order during her Ulat sa Bayan (Report to the Nation) on Nov. 30, 2002, after reports surfaced about the alleged overprice in the construction of the P1-billion President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard. The 1.1-km asphalt road runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard off Manila Bay and was named for the President's late father.

In their Friday meeting, Taguinod and four of the five newly appointed PEA directors decided the five officials could only be "transferred" pending the submission by the Commission on Audit of its findings on the alleged overprice.

Taguinod and directors Tomas Alcantara, Datu Ibrahim Paglas, Antonio Soriano and Vicente Suazo attended the meeting. A fifth director, Jose Feria, was said to be abroad.

"The board decided that before taking further action on the five officials, it would wait for the completion of the investigations by the Department of Public Works and Highways and the COA. In the meantime, I have detailed the five to the office of the chairman and they will not exercise their line functions," Taguinod said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

The five are Theron Victor Lacson, deputy general manager for finance; Manuel Berina Jr., deputy general manager; Jaime Millan, assistant general manager; Bernardo Viray, deputy manager, and Ernesto Enriquez, senior corporate attorney.

Two days before Ms Macapagal fired them, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission had recommended their dismissal and perpetual disqualification from public office.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo sent a memorandum to the then PEA board telling it to implement the order.

Before the memorandum could reach the PEA, however, its then general manager Diomedio Villanueva, former Armed Forces chief of staff, left for a holiday in the United States, leaving Lacson as officer in charge.

Malacañang then dismissed the old PEA board "outright," while the five officials could not be terminated, Taguinod said, because they were protected by the Constitution and civil service rules. The old board was composed of Palace appointees.

Taguinod said the new board will act on the dismissal of the five after the COA, which is awaiting the results of the DPWH investigation, submits its report in a few weeks.

As for the abolition of the agency, Taguinod said the board decided not to act on the President's order since a bill for the purpose has been filed in the House by Rep. Edelmiro Amante.

"It is already in the hands of Congress," he said.

Two PEA officers, meanwhile, who said they belong to a "reformist" group in the agency, scored the transfer of the five officials to the office of the chair, which is vacant.

The two, who sought anonymity, said the transfer "makes it appear something is being done about the President's order when in fact it is a dilatory tactic."

They said the transfer would still give the five "unhampered access to PEA records and allow them to continue to fraternize with each other."

Gov't vows to fight tax suit filed by New York

THE GOVERNMENT will fight a tax suit brought against the Philippines by the New York City government which is demanding payment for real estate taxes on the country's diplomatic and consular premises in the Big Apple, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said.

The NYC government ignored the United States' international legal commitments when it brought the $17.7 million suit for alleged tax delinquencies against the Philippines, Ople said.

"This case springs from a misappreciation of the applicable laws on this issue. The diplomatic and consular character of our property has never changed," Ople said in a press statement.

"We have retained counsel in New York to enable us to be better armed in dealing with this lawsuit. We intend to exhaust all available diplomatic, political and legal remedies," he said.

The subject of the tax suit is the site of the country's consulate general in New York, a seven-story building at 556 Fifth Avenue in New York which allegedly owes $17,737,616.36 in unpaid taxes from 1974 to 1996. The amount includes the taxes and charges, plus interest.

"The amounts demanded are highly unreasonable and the actions of the City Government of New York could conceivably interfere with our ability to carry out our diplomatic and consular duties and functions," Ople said.

The tax suit comes in the wake of a government plan to sell or lease seven pieces of prime real estate that it owns in the US, including the residence of the country's permanent ambassador to the United Nations on East 66th Street.

Ople said the government was making representations with the NYC government and the US State Department in Washington, DC.

"It is my hope that we will be able to address this lawsuit to our mutual satisfaction so that we can move on with our urgent work of pursuing our vital interests in the United Nations and providing consular services to our Filipinos in New York," he said. *Norman Bordadora*

Abaya tells Southcom chief: Stick to AFP plan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—New Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday advised new Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko to stick to the military plan in Mindanao.

Abaya, who formally turned over the command yesterday, said Kyamko should stick to the military's operational plan in the South but must also be responsive to the culture, sentiments and sensitivities of the people there.

Abaya said if Kyamko would deviate from the operational plan, he might fail as commander of the country's largest military force.

Abaya explained that the operational plan simply meant the military's anti-terror campaign.

"That is to destroy and neutralize all terrorist groups to include the Abu Sayyaf, the lost command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and kidnap for ransom gangs in Mindanao," he said.

Kyamko replied he would abide by what his predecessor and superior told him to do.

"I shall keep the command's engine running and steadily proceed in the direction that the command has navigated," he said.

But he also urged soldiers and civilians to "plug the holes inflicted by the armed conflict." *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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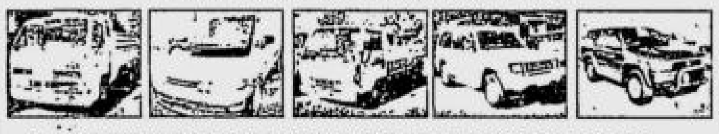

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SARS threat forces RP to delay visit of Sino leader

THE PHILIPPINES has postponed a scheduled visit to Manila of Wu Bangguo, China's parliament chief, due to the rapid spread of the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) disease, sources at the foreign office said Saturday.

Wu, ranked number two in the Chinese political ladder, was to meet with House Speaker Jose de Venecia from May 6 to 12.

He was to be accompanied by a delegation of about a hundred, the sources said.

But the foreign office has already informed the Chinese embassy in Manila of the postponement due to the SARS scare.

"We are awaiting a response from Beijing regarding this," the source said.

Meanwhile, the foreign office was also reportedly considering postponing a three-day visit of Vietnamese Vice President Truoan My Hoa in Manila starting April 27, the sources said.

Vietnam and China have been badly affected by SARS, which has killed about 120 people and infected some 3,000 worldwide.

The foreign office on Thursday issued an advisory warning Filipinos against travelling to the two countries as well as to Hong Kong and Singapore.

AFP

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1378, Series of 2003.

PAF major dies in Aceh

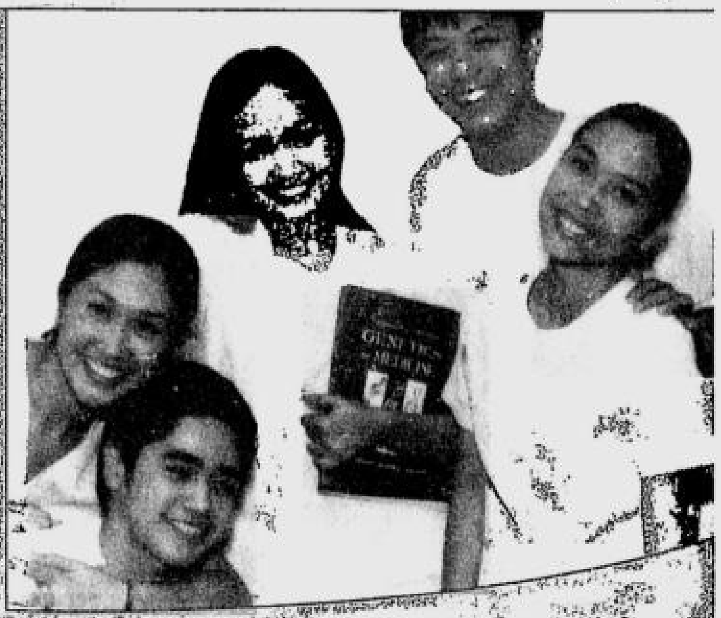
BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—A Filipino peace monitor in Indonesia's Aceh province drowned while swimming in the sea, an official said Saturday.

Maj. Joseph Rudolfo Latunero, 40, was swimming with a friend on Friday at Lampuuk Beach, about 35 km west of this city, when a current swept him out to sea.

"The current was really strong. His friend pulled him out to the beach and tried to resuscitate him but it was too late," said Steve Daly, a spokesperson from the Swiss-based Henri Dunant Center for Humanitarian Dialogue which is monitoring a peace deal between separatist rebels and the government in Aceh.

Latunero, a Philippine Air Force major, is the first international monitor to die in Aceh. He was one of eight Filipino military officers sent to Aceh to act as monitors after the peace deal was signed Dec. 9.

The 50 or so international monitors have recently withdrawn to the provincial capital after increasing mob violence across Aceh threatened their safety and imperiled the truce. Offices of the Henri Dunant Center have been ransacked and burned. *AP*



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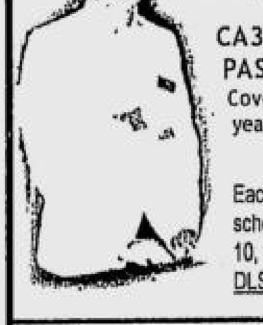

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Police hot on trail of 3 bombers

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE are on the trail of three more men, believed to be members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, in connection with the deadly bombings in Davao City recently, officials said yesterday.

"There are three more suspects who have not been accounted for. They are being hunted in Central Mindanao," said a police intelligence official who declined to be identified.

Local police have arrested and charged five persons, including a minor, in connection with the bombings at the Davao International Airport on March 4 and the Sasa Wharf on April 2 which killed at least 48 people and injured around 200 others.

The suspects, Tohame Bagundang, Esmael Akmad, Ismael Mamalangkas and Ting Idar, had reportedly admitted the attacks. The minor, identified by the alias Sammy, 17, had been used by the MILF in carrying out bombings, investigators said.

But Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, insisted those arrested were not MILF members.

"They are not MILF members. We've said that from the start," he said in a phone interview.

The intelligence official said those arrested were not the ones who had assembled the bombs but were the "delivery boys."

"They were just ordered to case the targets and deliver the bombs," he said.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he would block any effort to transfer custody of the minor suspect to the Department of Social Welfare and Development as mandated by law.

Known for his hard-line stance against suspected criminals, including minors, Duterte said Sammy had "committed a serious crime . . . a threat to national security."

On Friday, charges of multiple murder with frustrated multiple murder were filed against Sammy and the four other suspects in connection with the two explosions.

Charges were also filed against 159 others, including ranking leaders of the MILF, for the bombings.

Duterte said Sammy would remain in the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Reacting to suggestions Sammy could be turned into a state witness, Duterte said: "We will leave that to the city prosecutor."

Lawyer Hamlet Pahm said he would contest the arrest of his clients. He said police failed to secure arrest warrants when they took the five suspects from Cotabato City on April 8.

Pahm also scored the authorities for preventing him and other lawyers from talking with the suspects.

"It is a violation of their constitutional right," he said.

Meanwhile, the fate of two men arrested earlier as suspects in the airport bombing now hinges on the courts.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said he now believes that Tirso Sudang and Undongan Sudang, both village officials of Simone in Kabacan, North Cotabato, are innocent. He said he will work for their release and compensation for the experience they went through.

The Sudangs were picking up the body of a relative, Montasser Sudang, who was killed in the airport blast, when authorities arrested them on the basis of "hard evidence."

Montasser, who was at the airport to pick up a cousin returning from Egypt, was tagged as the suicide bomber. *With Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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DENR secretary explains wealth: It's my hubby's retirement pay

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Elisea Gozun has a simple explanation for the sudden jump in her family's financial assets: her husband's tax-free retirement package.

Gozun, who has been targeted by various letter-complaints sent to media offices questioning the P20-million increase in her cash assets between 2001 and 2002, explained that her husband had received P17 million in benefits when he retired as senior vice president of the Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar).

Conrado Gozun is also a former undersecretary in the Department of Agriculture.

Gozun explained that the separation benefits were not subject to tax, hence were not reflected in the couple's income tax returns. But she had to declare them in her statement of assets and liabilities when she was appointed to the environment department.

"We were waiting for the Commission on Appointments to ask us about that but nobody raised it," she said.

A certain Teddy Reyes of Sampaloc, Manila, has written to the Presidential Ant-Graft Commission asking the agency to investigate the allegedly "drastic rise" in Gozun's and her husband's cash assets, from P7,168,760 in 2001 to P27,813,648 last year, as reflected in her SAL.

In the letter, Reyes also questioned Gozun's revocation of Department Administrative Order 17 issued by the former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez last year and which gave small fishermen the sole right to fish within a 15-km limit from the shoreline.

This led employees in the PAGC to believe Reyes may be associated with a non-governmental organization working with fisherfolk. This could not be independently confirmed by the INQUIRER, however.

Militant fisherfolk groups have accused Gozun of revoking DAO 17 in exchange for her confirmation by the congressional Commission on Appointments, supposedly under pressure from congressmen who are owners of big fishing interests.

Reyes included copies of Gozun's SALs for 2001 and 2002 in his letter-complaint.

"How did she acquire P20 million without any apparent change in income except for the fact that she had become DENR secretary?" Reyes said in his complaint. *Gerald Lacuarta*

Leftist groups assail promotion of military officer

LEFTIST groups yesterday assailed the recent promotion of a military officer whom rights activists have long accused of human rights abuses in Oriental Mindoro.

The Southern Tagalog chapter of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday questioned the promotion of 204th Infantry Brigade commander Jovito Palparan from colonel to brigadier general.

Bayan-Southern Tagalog deputy secretary general Edwin Alog said the Karapatan watchdog group has attributed 326 cases of human rights violations to Palparan's unit.

Of this number, there were allegedly "17 cases of summary executions which victimized 30 individuals," mainly suspected operatives of the communist New People's Army, he said.

Alog said Palparan's promotion "reinforced the long-standing notion that the Armed Forces and the Macapagal government do not honor international humanitarian law."

Bayan Muna regional coordinator Bayani Cambronero questioned how "state honors" could be conferred on Palparan even with a congressional inquiry into the alleged rights abuse cases has yet to be finished.

The group noted that the promotion was still subject to the approval of the congressional Commission on Appointments. *Volt Contreras*

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(2) Application forms may also be obtained from the Regional Offices of the Civil Service Commission (CSC)

(3) Application forms may also be downloaded from the Department of Foreign Affairs website: www.dfa.gov.ph and the Civil Service Commission's website: www.csc.gov.ph.

Completed application forms together with the documentary requirements must be returned by the applicants themselves or by postal service to any of the DFA offices enumerated above not later than 25 April 2003 for evaluation and processing.

Iraq war over, no more free calls

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—No more free calls.

With the war in Iraq possibly in its final phase, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's regional office in Eastern Visayas has terminated "Task Force: Owwa Kalinga 2003," which extended free phone connections to the Middle East for relatives of overseas Filipino workers.

Ma. Evangeline Filamor, Owwa-8 regional chief, said the program was discontinued since there was no longer an urgent need for it.

Throughout the entire operations, which started on March 20—the day the war started—the Owwa-8 office was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Agency staff members in teams of six attended to the families of OFWs.

"It now appears that the trouble will not spread to other countries in the Middle East as previously feared, and that everything is back to normal," Filamor told the INQUIRER.

She was "so happy," she said, that "Kalinga" was able to serve a total of 76 callers. Out of this number, 38 made calls to Saudi Arabia, 26 to Kuwait, six to the United Arab Emirates; three to Israel, and one each to Lebanon, Jordan and Qatar.

According to records of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, not a single OFW from Eastern Visayas works in Iraq.

During the war, Filamor said, all six provincial governments and many municipalities in the region installed their own free telephone services. Thus, many of the families did not have to come to the Owwa-8 office for their free calls.

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Anti-US marches continue; militants hail Iraqi soldiers

By Jerome Aning

HAVING failed to stop the war on Iraq, anti-war activists took to the streets yesterday, this time to protest the allegedly "shameless occupation" of Iraq by the United States-led "coalition of the willing" which ousted the regime of strongman Saddam Hussein.

Protesters from the Justice Not War Coalition and the the International League of Peoples' Struggle-Philippine Chapter joined their counterparts in Asia and Oceania in the latest wave of anti-war demonstrations.

Anticipating Holy Week, they mounted a passion play titled "Pasyon ng Mamamayan" (The People's Passion) depicting the Filipino people as Christ, the US as Pontius Pilate and President Macapagal-Arroyo as King Herod.

The rallyists carried placards saying "US, out of Iraq," "Stop US occupation of Iraq," and "Bush, where are the WMDs (weapons of mass destruction)?"

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said that since Ms Macapagal was such an avid support of Washington's Iraq policy, "she could offer herself as the US puppet president in post-Saddam Iraq."

IPLS-Philippines chapter secretary general Rita Baua said they "salute" Iraqi soldiers, militia and civilians who resisted the invading coalition forces.

They said US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair should be tried by a war crimes tribunal for violating international humanitarian law, Iraq's sovereignty and the principles of democracy and peace.

The militant youth group Anakbayan rejected a government plan to send a peace-keeping mission to Iraq, saying it would only serve to support US "neocolonial policy" in Iraq.

"The US' sole objective in the war is to dominate the political, cultural and economic affairs of the oil rich-country... The US has to get rid of Saddam so that it could set up a neocolonial government that would not resist US imperialist hegemony in the country," said Anakbayan national chair Apolinario Alvarez.

SSS offices to close for Lenten holidays

THE OFFICES of the Social Security System nationwide will close down from April 16 to 18 as part of tradition marking the Lenten season holidays, SSS president and CEO Corazon de la Paz said yesterday.

But SSS tellers in the Quezon City branch will be available on April 16 to receive payment from self-employed and voluntary members and remittances from banks, which will remain open on that day, she said.

"SSS will resume full operations on April 21," De la Paz said.

Search for outstanding mothers and fathers on

THE ANNUAL search for outstanding mothers and fathers by the Golden Mother & Father Foundation Inc. is on.

Dubbed the "Alay kay Inay & Itay Awards," the search is on its 23rd year and is conducted in time for the celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day in May and June, respectively.

Parent achievers in the following fields may be nominated: Education, law and the judiciary, government and public service, socio-civic and religious sectors, media and journalism, arts and entertainment, business and industry, agriculture and forestry, medicine and allied sciences, and sports.

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The fall

EDITORIAL

IF George W. Bush needed an occasion to make a triumphant visit to Baghdad, he cannot choose a better time than today, Palm Sunday. He will certainly meet a tumultuous reception to eclipse that of Christ himself. Unlike the sparse crowd that pulled down the statue of Saddam Hussein in the center of the Iraqi capital last week (helped by media-savvy American officers who noticed that the sun was going down), Bush's ecstatic welcoming committee will certainly number in the hundreds of thousands.

But instead of riding a donkey, the commander in chief of history's most powerful military machine will probably ride down the avenues of ancient Baghdad in a top-of-the-line Abrams tank. And grateful Iraqis won't be waving palm fronds, but refrigerators, swivel chairs, electrical sockets and other loot of war.

Some of the more enthusiastic members of the so-called coalition of the willing have welcomed the fall of Baghdad—the regime change, in Bush-speak—as almost biblical in significance. They are over-reaching, of course. But the collapse of Saddam's brutal dictatorship, under the onslaught of the American invasion, is truly a milestone in history.

Twelve years ago, during the first Gulf War, George Herbert Walker Bush proclaimed the dawning of a "new world order." It took three US presidential elections and the non-cooperation of the hanging chads of Florida, but now there is no doubt that that new world order is truly here. Unlike the blueprint designed by Bush the father, however, reality engineered by Bush the son is go-it-alone, rather than multilateralist; military-powered, rather than diplomacy-driven; an essay in democratic imperialism, rather than a commonwealth of consensus.

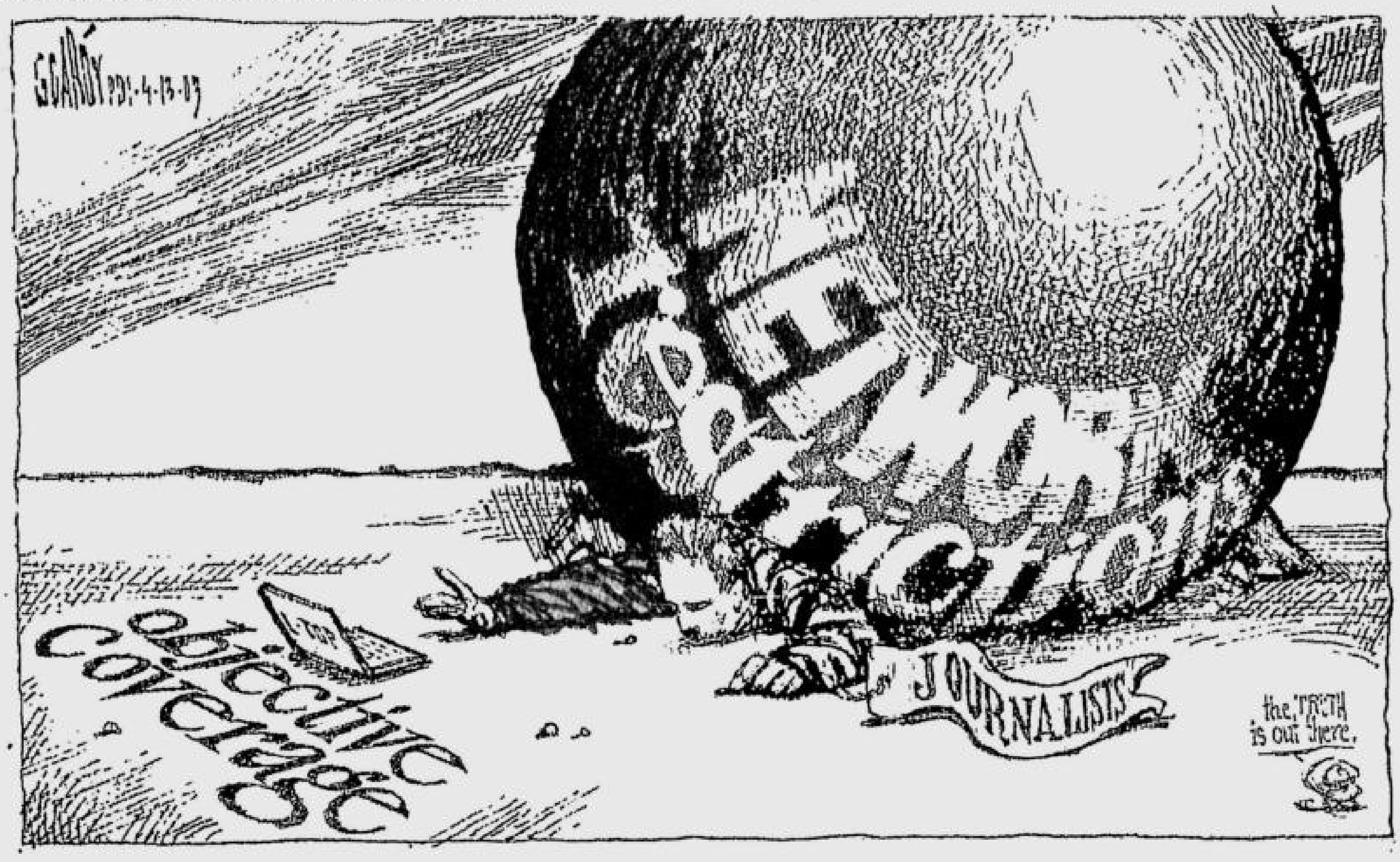
The outcome of the war was never in doubt. In this space, we said the conflict would last, depending on the intensity of Iraqi resistance, anywhere from a few days to a few months. But the successful prosecution of an unjust war does not make it any less unjust. The jubilation in the streets that eventually greeted the US-led coalition does not make the Bush administration's headlong rush to war any less irresponsible. If anything, the crowd scenes in Basra, Nasiriya, Baghdad, Mosul, Kirkut and other redoubts prove that the unilateralist approach has been found wanting. The joy in the streets quickly turned to anarchy, and American and British soldiers could only look in benign neglect.

A much bigger force, more international in scope, something like the one Bush the elder painstakingly assembled in 1991 under the aegis of the United Nations, would have been better prepared to impose order. There would have been more troops, allowing the group to spare some for peacekeeping missions. There would have been Arab members, allowing the group to soothe unease in both Iraq and the so-called Arab street. And there would have been greater legitimacy for the occupation, allowing the group to impose order without necessarily resorting to the use of force.

Sadly, even before the Bush administration spoke about the need to meet the humanitarian and the law and order needs of the Iraqi population, its most influential officials—among them Vice President Richard Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz—have already raised a clenched fist against Syria. (This is not to say that these men present at the new creation have forgotten that there are still two more unreformed members of that exclusive club, Bush's Axis of Evil.) What does this mean, then, but that the United States may be ready to take on Syria or Iran or North Korea militarily?

If it did, the United States would have learned the wrong lessons from the fall of Baghdad. What we can call the Rumsfeld doctrine—extensive use of Special Forces, the deployment of highly flexible divisions, the real-time integration of air and ground offensives, and, above all, the use of overwhelming speed—worked against Iraq. But it doesn't necessarily mean it will work against other countries, or that Syria, too, will fall in three weeks.

Instead of planning a triumphant entry into his Jerusalem, Bush should instead go on the inner road to Damascus.



Homos and vulgarity

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I EXPECT a vial of wrath to be poured upon my unworthy head for saying this but I will say it just the same. In doing so, I know I am expressing the same outrage felt by many of our people over a very distasteful problem of our society.

The object of our ire is the practice of our entertainment industry, particularly in the movies and on television, to give unhealthy prominence to homosexuals as if they were a special breed entitled to preferential attention from their audience.

I have no hostility toward homosexuals *per se* and in fact sympathize with them for their peculiar condition. Some call it abnormal but that is not the politically correct way of describing their status. It is undeniable, though, that many of them are embarrassed over their dubious sex and are anxious to hide them "in the closet."

There are some people who have not denied their homosexuality but, to their credit, do not caricature it. They tend to act effeminately but not deliberately and, in fact, try to avoid it. Among them are respectable businessmen, lawyers, doctors, architects and other professionals. Some of them are even leaders of their professions, and a few are in Congress.

These people deserve our respect and should be treated like other persons who do not share their natural condition. We should remember many homosexuals who excelled in their respective fields like Oscar Wilde and Rock Hudson. Alexander the Great, who wept because he had no more lands to conquer, was a homosexual.

What I find obnoxious are the homosexuals who cheapen their condition and thus bring contempt upon their class in general. These are the gays who provoke derision of their sexual ambiguity by wearing feminine attire, painting their faces like women, walking with mincing steps to look dainty, and other affectations that bring ridicule upon themselves.

When I was a child in the Legarda Elementary School in Manila, there was only *one* homosexual in the entire student population. He did not conceal his condition (as he could not) but he did not parade it either. He was the butt of jokes but everybody liked him. I mention this because I have noted a sharp increase in the number of gays in some private schools, as if homosexuality has become epidemic.

Once I passed by a group of boy students and heard one of them say like a harried housewife, "I have to go home to breast-feed my baby." Nobody laughed as at a joke—the remark was perfectly natural and serious to them.

Imitation may have something to do with the problem. It's like cigarette smoking, and now even drug addiction, which some teeners try (until they're hooked), to look like their more experienced peers. Being gay may be the "in" thing among some growing boys even as loss of virginity is a sign of sophistication among modern girls. You never can tell about the young people of today.

I believe the local movies and television have contributed in no small measure to the spread of homosexuality in our society. There is hardly any show that does not include a homosexual or two for allegedly comic effect. Maybe the producers or directors and other executives of the show are themselves homosexuals, like the agents or publicists of actors, if not, possibly, also the actors themselves.

Is our entertainment industry controlled by homosexuals? I hope not. But I am not encouraged by the competing morning shows on television in Metro Manila that have their respective homosexuals to outdo each other in their *bonggahan*. Can't these people engage in less irritating work like dressmaking and hairdressing?

Some years ago, there was that repugnant homosexual who hosted a TV program on show-biz *tsismis*. He wore a different kinky hat each week and thought it was cute. That abomination continued for some time when it should have been canceled the first time. The sponsors themselves must have wondered why they had paid good money for that nauseating show.

Movies and television have wide and strong influence on their audience, especially those with little education and are more impressionable. The educated have more discernment and are able to reject those shows that offend their sensibilities and insult their intelligence. It is the majority of the audience who are not similarly endowed that the entertainment industry is exploiting for its own ends.

It is time for the movie and television executives to recognize their responsibility to elevate the taste of our people. They should follow the example of their counterparts in Asia whose shows do not mock but respect homosexuality, if it is featured at all. They do not cater to uncouth viewers like ours, who hysterically roll in the aisles at the sight of a *bakla*. In our entertainment industry, vulgarity is the compulsory condition for box office success, and this is insured by the parody of the stupid homosexual.

And now there is this show coming soon on a local channel with a cast of "neither men nor women" who will wear gaudy feminine costumes to entertain the gawking audience with their girly songs and dances. Can't wait for that foolish extravaganza? Choose CNN or Discovery instead.

SARS: Sincere And Repentant Sinner

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told that after the Americans took over the Baghdad International Airport, a top military aide of Saddam Hussein gathered his 20 or so doubles in an emergency meeting. "Gentlemen, I have good news and bad news for you," he said to his nervous audience. "First the good news. He is alive. Now, the bad news: he lost his left arm... and the cutting starts now."

* * *

The Gospel today, Palm Sunday, is about the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The good news is that Somebody suffered so much and died for us and for our salvation. The bad news is that we, who are supposed to be his "doubles" in this world hardly suffer for Him, and hardly appreciate or remember what He has done for us.

* * *

It's Holy Week again. I wish we all will be infected with SARS not only, but especially, this week. Yes, may we all become Sincere And Repentant Sinners. It is that special time of the year when we all, as individuals, as a nation, and as a family of nations, must bend on our knees and beg forgiveness for our sins against Him and against one another. May our repentance be sincere and lasting.

* * *

When Jesus was arrested, He was abandoned and rejected by the very same crowd that on Palm Sunday had welcomed and hailed Him as King and Savior. In His lowest and darkest hour, He was rejected, denied and shunned even by His very relatives and friends.

But such is the human condition: people are there in your days of power and glory, and they are nowhere when you climb your Calvary. If you have experienced being hurt, misunderstood, persecuted and abandoned, console yourself with the thought that Jesus Himself suffered the same fate before you. But more so, console yourself with the thought that, like Jesus, God will be with you in your lowest and darkest hour.

* * *

Here are some DONT'S when it comes to SARS, especially this Holy Week: First, don't be "SARSrado" or closed. Be open to God's voice calling you to come back to Him, and turn from your evil ways. Take time to really listen to God. Open your heart to real conversion and real change of heart. Make a good confession and be at peace with God. You know why you don't have true confession and peace? *"SARSrado" ka kasi eh.*

* * *

Second, stop being "aSARS" to others. Stop irritating, stop hurting others. Are you a cross to other people? Do you make life more difficult for your loved ones? Ask for forgiveness and pray for the people you may have hurt, cheated, used or abused, especially this week.

Instead of just having a grand vacation, let's spend this week to express our thank you's, I'm sorry's, and I love you's to people around us—not only in words, but especially in deeds, and concrete actions. Make that firm decision to *stop hurting* and *start loving*.

* * *

Third, stop "paSARSrap." Cut down, if not all together, cut off your pleasures and vices in life. Life is not one big epicurean holiday. Some people think and desire life to be one grand pleasure cruise. Instead of focusing on a cruise, focus on the cross. Power, money, pleasures—all these make life happy and easy, but they leave us vain, miserable and empty. Think about it: a few moments of pleasure can lead to a lifetime of misery without measure.

* * *

Remember the three types of Christians on Semana Santa? The first one is the *Kristianong bakasyonista sa Semana Santa*. There are people for whom the Holy Week is just one big break from work, and one grand holiday. Period.

The second type is the *Kristianong artista sa Semana Santa*. There are people who insert some religiosity and customary piety during the week so as to feel good about themselves and somehow appease God, but readily go back to their old ways as soon as the week is over. Resurrection for them is literally resurrecting their old ways as soon as Easter comes.

The third type is the *Kristianong talaga, kahit hindi Semana Santa*. These are the Christians for whom sanctity is not a one-week but an ongoing, lifetime process of becoming ever more humble and loving on our journey to the Father, with Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit as our Guide.

* * *

Holy Week is a busy week for us priests. I will be in Zamboanga City for a Healing Mass (5:30 p.m.) on Holy Tuesday. On Holy Wednesday, I will be in the Nativity Parish, Cubao for recollection (8 to 9 p.m.). On Holy Thursday, we will have a recollection at the Ultra, Pasig 9 to 12. At 4 p.m. a TV Mass in Channel 2. On Good Friday, recollection at the Good Shepherd Spirituality Center, Antipolo from 9 to 12. Also the Seven Last Words at St. Jude Parish, Manila. On Holy Saturday, we will have an 8 a.m. talk at the Pink Sisters, Tagaytay and a 10 a.m. talk at the Angel's Hills, Tagaytay. Why are we doing all these? It's the least we can do to say thanks to Jesus who suffered so much, died and rose again for us, for me, a sinner.

Have a meaningful Holy Week and Blessed Easter!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, especially this week, be merciful to us and help us to be Sincere And Repentant Sinners. Amen.

Iraq is not Saddam

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

THREE weeks after it started, the US-led war against Iraq is over as far as the physical structure of the Saddam regime is concerned. But Iraq still remains terra incognita in the non-Arab world, our country included.

It is never useful or fair to identify the culture and history of a country with a defective regime. As former Undersecretary Ildefonso Remolona, who served as legislative liaison officer during the Ramos administration, pointed out in reaction to an earlier piece I had written ("Saddamed," PDI, 3/28/03), Iraq is not Saddam Hussein and Saddam is not Iraq.

In 1979, a young Iraqi doctor who was our neighbor in New York City, held a garage sale. (We bought his brand new TV set.) He told me he was going back to Iraq with his family. The United States was proving to be an expensive place in which to live.

Years later, Philippine chargé d'affaires to Iraq Grace Princesa-Escalante confirmed that the late 1970s was a time when medical and social services in Iraq were the envy of many countries in the Middle East. Iraq's oil industry was already flourishing by then, while Saudi Arabia and other neighbors were just beginning to enjoy the boom. The 1980s saw the United States giving wrong signals when it abetted Iraq's invasion of Iran.

Remolona refuted the view that Iraq is a longstanding terrorist Islamic country. While living there for close to a decade during the 1980s, he saw a more open and vibrant society where Muslims lived side by side with Christians and no jihad was being waged.

That was the period preceding the 1991 Gulf War, when Iraq and the United States were having a "political honeymoon." A common foe was Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. The Iraqis helped free the US hostages in Iran at that time and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was President George Bush Sr.'s emissary to Saddam.

Which brings to mind a worn-out but valid dictum: There are no permanent friends, only permanent national interests. And that should be enough to make us distinguish between Bush Jr. and the United States, though the line can be blurred by psy-ops, the new millennium's equivalent for the "cold war" of civilizations a la Samuel Huntington's prognosis of "culture clash."

A new dimension of the war in Iraq is the coalition's depiction of Saddam as an ally who had overstepped his bounds. The problem, according to author Geoff Simons, was that the United States negotiated terms after the Gulf War within the United Nations framework and simply let go of Saddam, after he had been reduced to a pariah. The UN-imposed sanctions allowed Saddam to operate in ways that enabled him to play hide-and-seek with the UN as it tried to force him to get rid of his weapons of mass destruction. Where coalition forces signify freedom and democracy, Saddam's regime firmed up despotism and posed a threat to humanity.

Escalante also saw in Iraq a rich tapestry of culture and history, especially religion. In a forum last March 31 at the UP Faculty Center where she made an off-the-cuff presentation, she associated the places in Basra that had been bombed with the mythical garden of Eden and recalled the hanging gardens of Babylon and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers of old where once flowed the great civilization of Mesopotamia. Iraq is an open society, she said, but its people's voices are muffled.

A London-based Iraqi interviewed by BBC stressed that the variety of religions and the differences between the Shi'ite and Sunni sects were not really the issue during the Saddam regime. The real issue was democracy and freedom. Saddam denied the Iraqis their freedom but he was able to continue to rule because he had sole control over the oil-for-food program following the imposition of UN sanctions. The looting in Baghdad after the collapse of Saddam's regime was an explosion of the Iraqis' pent-up hatred for a regime that had violated their humanity in many ways.

The present war in Iraq offers many lessons. One of the most important is the need to deconstruct and unclog one's mind of the war rhetoric that defies the emerging world order where power is no longer seen in terms of military might alone. The British still recall how they had carved Iraq from the Ottoman Empire at a time when Britain ruled the seas. American braggadocio is of recent vintage, coming closely after allied forces drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991 under the mantle of the UN and now reinforced by the "liberation" of Iraq (which is how US military strategists style the operation against Saddam), although Bush still balks at declaring the war over.

Power models come and go. It is time to construct new and apt paradigms where states are not the only ones on the world stage but also an informed global civil society.

Another lesson is the need to listen and interact with one another in a wider humanist sphere. As Mother Teresa once put it (a reflection we need in this season of Lent): "The reason why we have war is that we forget that we belong to each other." Once we realize this, we can talk of a truly humanist post-war reconstruction of Iraq. And that requires a constructive view of world politics where the UN and all peace-loving nations assume their rightful place on the world stage.

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SARS and politics

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"WHAT'S more difficult to cure, SARS or politics?" went the survey question last Thursday on the GMA-7 show "Debate." I didn't stick around long enough to find out what the public had to say. But even before the show began, all of us on the media panel charged with grilling Health Secretary Manolet Dayrit on the SARS situation agreed that while a cure for SARS might still be possible, though remote, there was no cure in sight for the bigger malady of politics.

The twain did meet the other day, when the President "diagnosed" an elderly foreign visitor as having come down with the mysterious pulmonary disease, then proclaimed him cured, declaring that the country is "SARS-free again."

But Dayrit was adamant that the 64-year-old male was not afflicted with SARS at all, even if the progress of his illness baffled his doctors. The most that could be said was that the man was a "probable SARS case," though he has since gotten well and is now presumed to have been cured of SARS, if he had it at all.

The President, who as far as we know is a trained economist and holds no secret degree in medicine, still dared to make a prescription, recommending that the recovered patient be kept in quarantine longer if only to erase all doubts about his condition.

When non-physician politicians sound off on the course of treatment for a disease that has grabbed international attention, then we can say that indeed politics is a virus far more virulent that any organism nature can come up with. In fact, many of the measures adopted by the DOH since the news about SARS first broke out seems to have been motivated by political concerns rather than genuine public health precautions.

While it's important, of course, to reassure the public about what the government is doing to head off a potential health disaster, it's also possible the overkill is in turn fomenting further panic and fueling imagined fears.

* * *

THE PARANOIA surrounding SARS reminds me so much of the early days of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. When news of a fatal sexually transmitted disease for which there was no cure first surfaced, not a few personalities, including doctors, began calling for stringent measures to keep the disease in check. Bills were even filed in Congress that would have "exiled" those testing positive for HIV to an isolated island, much like lepers, as those living with Hansen's disease were once known, were kept apart from the rest of society.

The tragedy was that fear of the disease soon mutated into fear and loathing not for the virus but for the people living with the virus in their blood. And because AIDS was transmitted most commonly through unprotected sex, those living with HIV were seen as having brought the disease on themselves, or worse, of merely paying the wages of sin, punished by God for indulging in illicit sex.

* * *

BECAUSE the corona virus, the prime suspect behind SARS, is transmitted by droplets in the air transmitted by carriers, the disease is viewed more benignly than AIDS and the people who come down with it are viewed as victims rather perpetrators.

Still, because so much of the disease remains unknown, those who fall ill or even those who work with them have come for their share of stigmatizing and discrimination. In Singapore, those diagnosed with SARS or have come in contact with a possible carrier are kept in strict quarantine, subject to stringent monitoring and restrictions that rival security measures for Hannibal Lecter. Malaysia has banned all arrivals from China and Hong Kong where the SARS outbreak was first detected.

In Singapore and Hong Kong, hospital workers and caregivers, many of them Filipino nurses, are shunned and isolated, with people fearing that they may have come down with an infection and were already carriers.

So you can imagine the plight of people living with HIV/AIDS in the early days, with any man testing positive automatically suspected of being gay, and any woman of being either a sex worker or a promiscuous hussy. And whatever else they were, they only deserved the "death sentence" of AIDS.

* * *

MAYBE it's just human nature that turns fear for our health into loathing for those who pose a threat.

But stressing the need for compassion rather than punishment, understanding rather than paranoia, should be the primary responsibility of our leaders, starting with those in government. They should be the last to exhibit panic and discrimination, and injecting politics into an already volatile situation should be the last thing on their minds.

But politicians can't seem to let go of their obsession with scoring political points or painting a positive image in the public mind. Maybe that's the temptation the President succumbed to when she played doctor and diagnosed and prescribed treatment for the foreigner suspected of having SARS. One lesson she could draw from this flap should be to leave medical and scientific concerns to those with the training and expertise, especially her health secretary.

I might add that it would be a crisis of unimaginative proportions should SARS enter the country and start spreading here. Given our abysmal health infrastructure and the crowded living conditions especially in our cities, a SARS outbreak would tax our already burdened health system to near breaking point. That's one problem no amount of political posturing can solve, and no amount of fear and loathing for the victims can cure.

The world after Iraq

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THAT the United States would eventually subdue Iraq has never been in question. This was not a war; this was a mugging. Of the three countries that George W. Bush named as the Axis of Evil, Iraq had the weakest and most exhausted army. The 1991 Gulf War and the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations so crippled Iraq that it could not defend itself in any meaningful way. In contrast, neighboring Iran has weapons of mass destruction it can use against invaders, and North Korea has nuclear weapons it could unleash against US forces in South Korea. To attack these two countries would have been messier.

The United States now has the authority of military victory, but this cannot take the place of the authority it sought vainly from the UN Security Council. The military campaign is over, the oil wells are securely in their hands, but America and Britain face a new set of problems.

They need the UN to help clean up the mess, and to provide a veneer of legality to the acquisition and sale of Iraqi oil. The scale of the humanitarian crisis in Iraq is such that only a global institution like the UN can avert further loss of life in this shattered country and arrest its rapid slide to anarchy.

Britain's Tony Blair, easily the more sensible and articulate one in this reckless partnership, knows this and has made it clear that he wants the UN to play a vital role in the reconstruction and administration of post-war Iraq. He is also aware of the diplomatic damage this war has wrought in Europe, and he wants it quickly repaired. But the American side, feeling vindicated, seems concerned only with the disposition of the spoils of war and with ensuring that those who had opposed the war are not among its first beneficiaries.

Ominous and disturbing has been the silence of the United Nations since March 19, the start of the assault on Iraq. The UN stood in "shock and awe" while the most powerful country in the world began pounding a defenseless nation with its bombs and missiles, unable to react and in any coherent way to a brazen act of aggression that fell within its jurisdiction. The UN knew that the unauthorized American assault on Iraq was also an assault on its own authority and credibility.

This war would have been immediately condemned if it had been launched by a lesser power. Having failed to assert its voice when it was most needed, the UN now has to redefine its mandate in a world in which America holds ultimate veto power. The concept of a United Nations will have to be recast to accommodate the reality of a lone superpower that is free, in the prescient words of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, "to behave multilaterally when we can, and unilaterally when we must."

There are signs that this adjustment is already taking place. The first is the strange meeting of the Security Council while the attack was ongoing, which approved the resumption of Iraq's oil-for-food program but was silent about the war that had disrupted the program in the first place. The second is the withdrawal of a resolution filed by the Arab nations demanding a special meeting of the UN General Assembly to tackle the question of the US-UK invasion of Iraq. The third is the softening of the position of Russia, France and Germany on the war, from a hard-line opposition to the war to a benign wish for an early American victory and conclusion.

UN diplomats, whose reputation for redescription is legendary, will surely find limitless ways of finessing the unprovoked destruction of one country in the hands of another. The world will be admonished not to dwell on the past but to move forward, not to focus on the differences that divide nations but on the vision of a secure world that unites them, and so on and so forth. Instead of "precision-bombing," "embedded journalists," and "weapons of mass destruction," we will be hearing more buzz words like "humanitarian aid," "post-war reconstruction," "interim transitional civilian authority," and "Iraqi freedom and democracy."

The hard facts of national interests and corporate greed will lie hidden beneath these altruistic words. The members of the coalition of the willing, now greatly expanded, will be warring among themselves inside boardrooms for oil and rehabilitation contracts. Not one of them will care to know anymore about Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. The UN bureaucracy, wasteful and useless in many ways, will quietly accept every humiliation implied by America's unilateral action in order to prolong its life. In exchange, it will supply America all the garments it requires to cover the nakedness of its power.

A restored émigré elite will govern Iraq but will be unable to command legitimacy and run the country without American support. The resentment and hostility of Arabs and Muslims toward America will grow even more. In a world without a credible international authority, terrorism will increasingly be the only weapon of the weak.

Conscientious Americans, who have opposed this war from the start in the name of founding values they take seriously, will revisit this unjust war in their hearts. They will refuse to be silenced by the drums of false patriotism. Their voices will be the most important voices for peace.

And we, in the Philippines, hopefully, will find the decency to release the Iraqi nationals we have unjustly detained to earn our credentials as part of the coalition of the willing. They have raised families here and they are not terrorists. A good number of them are Kurds and Shi'ite Arabs who left Iraq to escape the regime of Saddam Hussein.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Lacson's subtle plea for soft treatment

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

POLITICAL persecution.

This is how Sen. Panfilo Lacson views the April 1 ruling of the Supreme Court ordering a trial court to hear the cases filed against him and other co-accused for the murder of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang. If the decision were an "April Fools' Day" joke, it was probably the worst he ever received in his life.

Lacson said the reopening of the cases is aimed at derailing his plan to seek the presidency in the 2004 elections. He is making capital of the fact that the ruling was issued three days after he declared before the graduating class of a school in Northern Luzon his intention to join the presidential derby.

To the uninitiated, Lacson's catchy statements may have a ring of truth. They appear to be supported by events. The time lapse between his declaration of presidential ambition and the promulgation of the ruling lend some credence to his complaint.

But the problem with this line of thinking is it assumes that decisions of the tribunal are prepared "fast- food" style. Meaning, a case is submitted for resolution in the morning, then the ruling comes out in the afternoon. Or as computer techies would probably put it, a template on criminal cases is drawn from the court's database, the blanks are filled up and, voila, judgment is rendered.

Lacson conveniently glossed over the fact that the case had been in the tribunal's calendar since May last year. Considering the novelty of the issues involved, the discussions of the justices must have been serious and lengthy, as shown by the dissenting opinions of four justices. The number of pages (29, excluding the dissenting opinions) of the ruling indicates that a lot of research and cross-checking of Philippine and American jurisprudence were done before the justices stamped their imprimatur on it.

Criticisms

It's unfortunate that a lot of criticisms of the ruling came from members of Congress who are lawyers and therefore expected to know how things work in the tribunal. The process that decisions go through is long and tedious because of their effect on future cases. Only a severe case of amnesia or total brain failure by lawyers would justify forgetting that important fact.

The shrill reaction of Lacson's legal advisers to the tribunal's decision hews closely to the advice a noted law professor (May his soul rest in peace!) used to give to his students: If you are strong on the law but weak on the facts, pound on the law; if you are weak on the law but strong on the facts, pound on the facts; if you are weak on the law and facts, pound on the table! Now you have an idea why the lawyers' tables in our courtrooms are in bad physical shape.

Had the tribunal ruled the other way around, the same, lawyers would have made the rounds of media outlets to praise the justices for their "sense of fairness" and "adherence to the rule of law." The days when lawyers accepted their setbacks with dignity are long past. Nowadays, in what may be considered a take-off from politicians who fail to win election, lawyers lose not because of the weakness of their case, but because the judge is incompetent or was bribed by the winning party.

Stripped to its bare bones, Lacson's beef against the order to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case against him is nothing but a subtle demand that the judicial system give him preferential treatment by virtue of his political standing in the country.

Lenient treatment

His action is consistent with the belief by most public officials, in particular, congressmen and senators, that they are entitled to leniency and liberality if they find themselves in trouble with the law. In their book, as duly elected representatives of the people they are entitled to certain privileges not available to others. Stretching that argument a little more, it's like saying they are descended from the gods and therefore should not be placed on the same footing as ordinary mortals.

So a daily wage laborer can be arrested for unruly behavior and immediately thrown to jail to prevent him from doing further damage to the community. But if a congressman gets drunk inside a restaurant and shoots somebody who accidentally looks at him, he has to be read his rights and accompanied by a lawyer before he can be brought to the police precinct, if at all, to account for his acts.

What makes the discriminatory treatment galling is the practice of some members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of openly flaunting that "above the law" feeling by invoking their legislative powers to protect members who run afoul of the law, or to justify defiance of court orders that are adverse to their interests on the pretext that compliance would undermine their independence.

Remember how some congressmen tried to block the arrest of former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos when he was found guilty of raping a 12-year-old girl on the ground that his imprisonment would deprive his constituents of representation in the House? Public opinion forced the congressmen to surrender him to the authorities to serve his prison term.

Face the music

Then there's the case of then Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who was ordered suspended by the Sandiganbayan for unlawful acts committed while she was head of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation. The senators refused to implement the order and argued that only the Senate has the right to suspend or expel its members. The order became moot when Defensor's term expired and, wisely, the electorate did not reelect her.

It should not come as a surprise if some senators try to prevent the trial court from asserting its jurisdiction over Lacson for some imagined legal or political reasons. If that tactic works, they may ask that he be placed under the custody of the Senate so he can freely go about his life as if the tribunal's order to reopen the cases against him was not issued.

"Political harassment" has become the standard defense of politicians facing criminal charges arising from personal acts or official duties. Like the alibi that recidivists invoke when the police catch them again, this excuse has become a broken record of sorts that has lost its meaning.

If, as Lacson claims, he had nothing to do with the death of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang, then the reopening of the cases provides him with the best opportunity to clear his name. Casting aspersions on the integrity of the justices and crying political harassment will only engender doubts in the public's mind about his true involvement in that crime.

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Who isn't afraid of SARS?

THE DISEASE has no known cure and can kill a healthy adult in a matter of days. Since late last year, when it was first reported in Guangdong, China, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) has killed more than 100 people and infected thousands in more than a dozen countries on five continents.

From southern China, the flu-like disease has spread to Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Australia, Canada, the United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Romania.

Because of air travel, the killer disease is spreading fast. The disease has been traced to a doctor who contracted it in Guangdong. He passed it to 12 guests when he checked in at Hotel Metropole in Hong Kong. The guests then spread it to other parts of the globe.

SARS can travel via coughs and sneezes, although doctors fear it may be spread by other means. Among the first to be infected with the disease were doctors and nurses treating SARS patients. Because surgical masks offer some form of protection, people in badly hit areas like Hong Kong and Singapore have taken to wearing them in public.

The mysterious disease is affecting Asian economies more than the war in Iraq. It has slowed down travel and tourism, derailed trade shows, closed down factories, and disrupted the flow of products from sports shoes to microchips.

Despite claims by health authorities that there are no confirmed SARS cases in the Philippines, tourist arrivals have fallen. The country may not remain SARS-free for long as tens of thousands of Filipinos work in countries badly hit by SARS.

'I'm scared'

I'M scared. If it's here, I'll just cover my mouth and nose and limit my visits to public places if possible. And also I think the best thing to do is pray. *Anne Detera, DJ, OK-fm, Legazpi City*

Who is not afraid of SARS? Once it reaches the Philippines, there is a nil chance I won't get infected. So if it's here, the best thing to do next is to live life to the fullest. I'll spend each day of my life doing things that I haven't done yet. It's useless getting depressed and frustrated. It won't cure me of SARS. Better to die happy than spend the rest of your life sad just because you caught a disease that no one can heal anyway. ***Randy Bernal**, computer technician, La Trinidad, Benguet*

I'm not afraid. SARS only has a five-percent mortality, which means it is not really a very dangerous disease. The media have just blown it out of proportion. I'm more afraid of tuberculosis and rabies. Tuberculosis has been the cause of 300 deaths in Batangas every year, while rabies has 100 percent mortality rate. Now tell me, which is more dangerous? ***Dr. Isagani Bolompo**, Batangas provincial health officer*

It's sheer stupidity if one is not afraid of SARS. Just look at the way Metro Manila residents have bought in panic all the stocks of surgical masks in drugstores. Just hope that it's just paranoia. Or else, we should start thinking of reaching out to Him. Pray! ***Ryan Paul Tan**, new college graduate, Tagaytay City*

I'm afraid. It's a deadly disease and I pray that I don't get it. In case it gets here, I would be careful. I would maintain cleanliness in my surroundings and don't go near infected areas. ***Graciano Cartegana**, security guard, Iloilo City*

I'm not afraid. I won't wear a mask like others are doing. ***Maria Caridad Bañes**, commercial sex worker, Kabacan, Cotabato*

'It's a disease of the rich'

SARS is a disease of the rich and I'm not afraid if it arrives in Butuan. ***Marcelino Agipo**, cigarette street peddler, Butuan*

Yes. We have to be vigilant in fighting the disease and pray hard. ***Eufrocina Jacinto**, landscape artist, Guiguinto, Bulacan*

Yes. I will take all necessary precautions, like better hygiene, especially before eating. I also doubt if our local doctors know how to cure SARS. ***Aurelio Guttierez**, mechanic, Candon, Ilocos Sur*

I'm not afraid. If SARS is already here, the best thing we can do is to take care of our health. The disease has no cure yet, and it will be better for us to maintain a strong immune system. ***Capt. Rommel Genete**, Calatagan, Batangas*

Of course I'm afraid. If there is someone affected by SARS in my area, he or she should be isolated. We have to be extra careful. I would stay away from people suspected of having SARS. Even now, I avoid crowded places. ***Rebecca Antonio**, radio operator, Bacolod*

No. All I need to do is maintain a strong immune system by having a balanced diet, getting plenty of exercise, and having enough rest. ***Daisy Villar**, government employee, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya*

Of course I am afraid because scientists have not determined what is causing the disease and its cure. Should there be a SARS case in the country, I would limit our (family's) movement, stay in safe places. I wish government doctors would exert every effort to prevent an outbreak. ***Marie Cris Gepte**, housewife, City of San Fernando, Pampanga*

'I'm afraid for my family'

OF course, I'm afraid. I'm afraid for my family and for the other people. ***Ali Usman Mohamad**, high school graduate, Kidapawan, North Cotabato*

Just let it be. *Kung mamamatay, eh, di mamatay!* ***Vida C**[illegible], [illegible] City*

[illegible] here. There's nothing we can do about it. So I'll be [illegible]. I'll arrange for my funeral. Say goodbye to people I have shared my life with. Maybe write a story about my difficult life. Or my experience with SARS. Perhaps the INQUIRER can compile all these stories, and publish it into a book. Then even if I die, at least I made something significant because I'm too young as yet to have contributed something to society. ***Suzette Bennett**, legal secretary, La Trinidad, Benguet*

Imagine in just a few days you will die. Who will not [illegible] of that? ***Prinelie Vasquez**, college in[illegible] de Oro*

I'm not afraid because I know God will not allow SARS to reach the Philippines, especially because all Filipinos are praying now, and we're very close to Mama Mary. But if it's already here, I'll just take the necessary precautions. ***Rita Pelayo**, university professor, Naga City*

Nope. I am not afraid because it is not airborne and it is preventable. What is important is information campaign for the prevention of the disease. ***Cherissa Palubio**, sales and marketing officer, Davao City*

Of course I am afraid, especially for my one-year-old baby. I will be careful when dealing with people, especially those who have SARS.I will follow the advisories issued by the Department of Health so that my baby and I will not get the virus. ***Irene de Venecia**, government employee, Tanauan town, Leyte*

'I'll stay fit'

SARS is scary. I really don't know how to deal with it. But for precautionary measures, I'll stay fit and healthy. ***Vie Reyes**, Arengga Pinnata bottler, Indang, Cavite*

I am not afraid because health officials have been announcing that there are no confirmed cases of SARS yet in the country. If it reaches our country, the best I can do is to pray, stay away from a potential SARS victim and practice good hygiene. ***Vilma Argonza**, student, Tumauini, Isabela*

Of course I'm afraid of SARS. If there are SARS cases in our country, the best thing I can do is to follow the advice of people, particularly the doctors, who can best tell what to do in preventing this mysterious disease. As much as possible, I will avoid going to crowded places and stay home until the outbreak is over. ***Percival Reyes**, technician, Olongapo*

I used to think that it was just an ordinary disease that can be immediately cured. But I'm now afraid of SARS because of reports that many have died from it. If a SARS case is reported in the country, I can do nothing because I'm just an ordinary citizen. The government and the Department of Health should find ways to stop its spread. Then I'll buy those masks, like those shown in the newspapers. ***Mario Sison**, messenger, National Housing Authority, Baguio*

SARS is just a deviation from the unjust US war against Iraq. It's a cover-up. They just want to commercialize anti-SARS products like gas masks. ***Rodolfo Plopinio**, businessman, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro*

'Only a fool is not afraid'

ONLY a fool will not be fearful of SARS. I have to avoid travelling and stay away from crowded malls. As much as possible we have to stay home. ***Herme Loreto**, provincial environment office, Balanga, Bataan*

I am not afraid because we will all die anyway and if I happen to contract it what can I do? Before it gets here I will make sure that I have the proper diet so that I will be strong. ***Rubelyn Yap**, reporter, Cagayan de Oro*

I'm not that afraid because I'm not working or travelling abroad. In case SARS hits the country, I will not go near people who are coughing. I will immediately consult a doctor even if I have a minor flu or a cough. ***Mayette Eucariza**, businesswoman, Hagonoy, Bulacan*

Yes. I will observe the necessary preventive measures. But it will be difficult because we don't know exactly how the virus can be contracted. Is it in the air, or is it transmitted by human contact, or both? If that's the case, then we might as well say goodbye to malli[illegible] gimmicks. ***Sherlyn Bactin**, research assistant, Batac, Ilocos N*[illegible]

With the deluge of [illegible] about SARS, I am [illegible] I still have [illegible] cautionary measu[illegible] I'll [illegible] discussing SARS in my radio prog[illegible] will get enlightened and not resort to unnecessary panic. ***Tony Casimiro**, station manager, Bombo Radyo-Laoag City*

I am afraid of SARS because like other Filipinos, I fear the unknown. I don't know what causes it, how it is transmitted to humans, what its cure is. If SARS cases were reported in the country, I would relocate my family to an isolated place until a vaccine is developed. ***Bambi Cabacling**, journalist, San Fernando City*

I'm not afraid of SARS. What we can do right now is to have all the necessary prevention, good diet, vitamins, and exercise. Prevention is always better than cure. ***Arvin Malabanan**, professor, De la Salle University, Lipa City*

'I don't care about SARS'

I'M not even afraid of AIDS. Diseases will always be there. Our best defense is proper hygiene. Our defense system is there to help us fight these diseases. ***Johnny Bravo**, disc jockey, Kidapawan, North Cotabato*

I am not afraid and I don't care about SARS. ***June Dumancas**, businesswoman and nursing student, Kidapawan, North Cotabato*

Who is not? It's a killer disease with no known cure yet. If it reaches our area, I will follow the instructions given by our government agencies especially the Department of Health. We will take precautionary measures like wearing of medical or preventive masks, frequent hand washing and other measures. I will also submit myself to voluntary quarantine if SARS has come to the point of infecting any of my family members. ***Rodel Belloño**, maintenance technician, Lapu-lapu City*

No. To avoid contamination, don't eat sardines, don't drink Sarsi, and don't dip food in *sarsa*. ***Ted Valdez**, resort owner, Calaca, Batangas*

Of course. But there are things we can only control up to a certain extent and this is one of them. If it's already in the country, better apply the maxim 'an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.' People should take care of themselves and make themselves healthy so that they wouldn't easily catch the virus. ***Victoria Lamucho**, college professor, San Jose City*

No. Just avoid catching colds because it usually starts from there. ***Teresita**, barangay health worker, Naga City*

I would probably go on a long vacation and live on our mango farm where our neighbors are one kilometer away. ***Reuben Bokingo**, farmer, Negros Oriental*

I'm not afraid of SARS at all. My wife and I just had a three-day vacation in Hong Kong, and I think a person has greater chances of getting killed in a car accident than getting infected with and dying of SARS. The funny thing was that almost all passengers inside the plane wore masks, but they had to remove the masks when food was served. But to be sure, my wife and I had to wear masks each time we used the hotel elevator in Hong Kong. ***Larry Millan**, head of a micro-finance institution*

I'm not afraid. But just in case, I'll have to coordinate with the Department of Health for checkup and update. ***Celso Valdez**, government worker, Banaue, Ifugao*

Yes, of course. The disease has become a worldwide concern and even dwarfed the Iraq war issue. Well, if SARS is already in the Philippines, I would advise my relatives and friends to stay home more often and keep away from busy places. It is also good to always carry a small bottle of alcohol and surgical mask. ***Debbie Carlos**, pharmacist, Mabalacat, Pampanga*

It's human nature to be afraid of the unknown. But the best way to handle it is to know how to prevent and detect SARS. Of course, a healthy body helps. ***M**[illegible] **Grace Aquino**, profess[illegible] of Batangas*

'It's God's punishment'

We can do nothing but pray. This [illegible] of war. [illegible] avoid the spr[illegible] must stop the war. This infirmity is God's way of punishing those who do not fear and obey Him. ***Ma. Zian Cafion**, college student, Victoria, Laguna*

Of course, What I will do is avoid mixing with people in overcrowded places. If there's nothing important to do elsewhere, I better stay in the house to avoid the SARS virus, which is airborne. I'll pray fervently that the malady does not enter the country. ***Ma. Lyra Bagac**, housewife, Cabuyao, Laguna*

Yes. I have to be very careful all the time to avoid contamination by the killer virus. I aslo advise other people to be extra careful because SARS has still no cure. ***Minda Totor**, house helper, Pangil, Laguna*

Of course, because it's deadly. I'll just be careful in talking to strangers. ***Noling Saludes**, family driver,Naga City*

I am not afraid of SARS because no one in Negros had been reported to be infected yet. If SARS is in my area, I will take precautionary measures and stay away from infected persons. ***Hernand Garciniego**, bookkeeper, Bacolod, Negros Occidental*

Yes, I am afraid of SARS since there is no known cure yet. I don't know if our country has the capability to detect SARS or cure the affected person. If it reaches our area, I will suggest that those infected with the disease be isolated so as not to infect others. Of course, they should be given full medical attention. ***Marissa L**[illegible], social worker, T[illegible] City, Cebu*

[illegible] I will [illegible] [illegible] *short story writer, Negros Occidental*

Interviews by PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, PDI Central Luzon Desk, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, PDI Visayas Bureau, and PDI Mindanao Bureau

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AlcRodriguez

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'Only a fool is not afraid'

ONLY a fool will not be fearful of SARS. I have to avoid travelling and stay away from crowded malls. As much as possible we have to stay home. *Herme Loreto, provincial environment office, Balanga, Bataan*

I am not afraid because we will all die anyway and if I happen to contract it what can I do? Before it gets here I will make sure that I have the proper diet so that I will be strong. *Rubelyn Yap, reporter, Cagayan de Oro*

I'm not that afraid because I'm not working or travelling abroad. In case SARS hits the country, I will not go near people who are coughing. I will immediately consult a doctor even if I have a minor flu or a cough. *Mayette Eucariza,* businesswoman, Hagonoy, Bulacan

Yes. I will observe the necessary preventive measures. But it will be difficult because we don't know exactly how the virus can be contracted. Is it in the air, or is it transmitted by human contact, or both? If that's the case, then we might as well say goodbye to malli[illegible] gimmicks. *Sherlyn Bactin, research assistant, Batac, Ilocos No[illegible]*

With the deluge of [illegible] about SARS, I am [illegible] will still have [illegible] cautionary measu[illegible] I'll c[illegible] discussing SARS in my radio prog[illegible] will get enlightened and not resort to unnece[illegible] panic. *Tony Casimiro, station manager, Bombo Radyo-Laoag City*

I am afraid of SARS because like other Filipinos, I fear the unknown. I don't know what causes it, how it is transmitted to humans, what its cure is. If SARS cases were reported in the country, I would relocate my family to an isolated place until a vaccine is developed. *Bambi Cabacling, journalist, San Fernando City*

I'm not afraid of SARS. What we can do right now is to have all the necessary prevention, good diet, vitamins, and exercise. Prevention is always better than cure. *Arvin Malabanan, professor, De la Salle University, Lipa City*

'I don't care about SARS'

I'M not even afraid of AIDS. Diseases will always be there. Our best defense is proper hygiene. Our defense system is there to help us fight these diseases. *Johnny Bravo, disc jockey, Kidapawan, North Cotabato*

I am not afraid and I don't care about SARS. *June Dumancas, businesswoman and nursing student, Kidapawan, North Cotabato*

Who is not? It's a killer disease with no known cure yet. If it reaches our area, I will follow the instructions given by our government agencies especially the Department of Health. We will take precautionary measures like wearing of medical or preventive masks, frequent hand washing and other measures. I will also submit myself to voluntary quarantine if SARS has come to the point of infecting any of my family members. *Rodel Belloño, maintenance technician, Lapu-lapu City*

No. To avoid contamination, don't eat sardines, don't drink Sarsi, and don't dip food in *sarsa*. *Ted Valdez, resort owner, Calaca, Batangas*

Of course. But there are things we can only control up to a certain extent and this is one of them. If it's already in the country, better apply the maxim 'an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.' People should take care of themselves and make themselves healthy so that they wouldn't easily catch the virus. *Victoria Lamucho, college professor, San Jose City*

No. Just avoid catching colds because it usually starts from there. *Teresita, barangay health worker, Naga City*

I would probably go on a long vacation and live on our mango farm where our neighbors are one kilometer away. *Reuben Bokingo, farmer, Negros Oriental*

I'm not afraid of SARS at all. My wife and I just had a three-day vacation in Hong Kong, and I think a person has greater chances of getting killed in a car accident than getting infected with and dying of SARS. The funny thing was that almost all passengers inside the plane wore masks, but they had to remove the masks when food was served. But to be sure, my wife and I had to wear masks each time we used the hotel elevator in Hong Kong. *Larry Millan, head of a micro-finance institution*

I'm not afraid. But just in case, I'll have to coordinate with the Department of Health for checkup and update. *Celso Valdez, government worker, Banaue, Ifugao*

Yes, of course. The disease has become a worldwide concern and even dwarfed the Iraq war issue. Well, if SARS is already in the Philippines, I would advise my relatives and friends to stay home more often and keep away from busy places. It is also good to always carry a small bottle of alcohol and surgical mask. *Debbie Carlos, pharmacist, Mabalacat, Pampanga*

It's human nature to be afraid of the unknown. But the best way to handle it is to know how to prevent and detect SARS. Of course, a healthy body helps. *Miriam Grace Aquino, profess[illegible]m of Batangas*

'It's God's punishment'

We can d[illegible] but pray. This [illegible] of war. [illegible] avoid the [illegible] must stop the war. This infirmity is God's way of punishing those who do not fear and obey Him. *Ma. Zian Cafion, college student, Victoria, Laguna*

Of course, What I will do is avoid mixing with people in overcrowded places. If there's nothing important to do elsewhere, I better stay in the house to avoid the SARS virus, which is airborne. I'll pray fervently that the malady does not enter the country. *Ma. Lyra Bagac, housewife, Cabuyao, Laguna*

Yes. I have to be very careful all the time to avoid contamination by the killer virus. I aslo advise other people to be extra careful because SARS has still no cure. *Minda Totor, house helper, Pangil, Laguna*

Of course, because it's deadly. I'll just be careful in talking to strangers. *Noling Saludes, family driver, Naga City*

I am not afraid of SARS because no one in Negros had been reported to be infected yet. If SARS is in my area, I will take precautionary measures and stay away from infected persons. *Hernand Garciniego, bookkeeper, Bacolod, Negros Occidental*

Yes, I am afraid of SARS since there is no known cure yet. I don't know if our country has the capability to detect SARS or cure the affected person. If it reaches our area, I will suggest that those infected with the disease be isolated so as not to infect others. Of course, they should be given full medical attention. *Marissa [illegible] social worker, Talisay City, Cebu*

[illegible] I will [illegible] short story writer, Negros Occidental*

Interviews by PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, PDI Central Luzon Desk, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, PDI Visayas Bureau, and PDI Mindanao Bureau

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

China reports 2 more deaths; fresh SARS cases growing

HONG KONG—The spread of the killer SARS virus showed no sign of slowing Saturday as China reported two more deaths and a rising number of cases around the globe had governments battling to stem the outbreak.

Beijing said two people had died in Inner Mongolia, the first reported cases in China's remote north, taking its death toll from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus to 60, by far the highest in the world.

The news Saturday came a day after the World Health Organization said it believed the virus had peaked in the world's most populous nation, which has 1,319 reported cases of the disease.

The two deaths, which took the worldwide death toll to 119, occurred among 10 people infected in the region that borders Mongolia and Russia, and renewed fears concerning the spread of the virus in the country.

"After examining patients an expert team from the Ministry of Health said that up to April 10, 10 cases of imported acute pneumonia had been detected in Inner Mongolia, of which two patients have died," China's official Xinhua news agency reported on its Web site.

On Friday Mike Ryan, director of the WHO's global alert and response coordination in Geneva, said: "Our team has told us that they are very confident that the epidemic has peaked... but that there are still cases in Guangdong (the southern Chinese province)."

China has been criticized internationally for not promptly and openly addressing the epidemic, and the WHO has urged China for "full and open" reporting of SARS cases.

The WHO Saturday began to beef up its surveillance of the epidemic in China, with a team of its experts arriving in southern Macau, which along with Hong Kong borders Guangdong province.

WHO experts visited Guangdong last week and are inspecting of Beijing's health facilities.

Meanwhile, 13 more possible cases of SARS were reported in Canada, the country hardest hit by SARS outside Asia, as the nation's toll climbed to 266, including 10 deaths.

And Vietnam reported a new case of SARS case on Saturday, with its toll now at 62 cases, including four fatalities.

The respiratory virus has spread to more than 30 countries and infected more than 3,000 people, according to an AFP count based on reports from national health offices.

Governments across the globe are battling to bring it under control, with some sending people into quarantine or imposing travel restrictions.

The Philippines, which reported its first probable case of the pneumonia-like illness of Friday, placed airport authorities on alert Saturday with thousands of Filipino workers expected to return for vacations next week from SARS-plagued Hong Kong.

Hong Kong health officials Friday reported two more deaths from SARS—men aged 81 and 79—and 61 new cases of the disease, taking the total number of deaths in the territory to 33 and the total number of cases to 1,060.

In Singapore, where nine people have died of SARS and 133 cases have been reported, a spokesperson for the company which owns the Superstar Virgo cruise ship said two members of the ship's crew have been hospitalized with suspected cases of SARS, one in Singapore and one in Malaysia.

Indonesia also reported its first probable cases of SARS on Friday, while more suspected infections were reported in Europe: a sixth in Britain, a sixth in Switzerland and a fifth in France.

Taiwan said Malaysia had advised the island that it would temporarily stop issuing visas to Taiwanese tourists from April 14 to halt the spread of SARS, a decision Taipei said it regretted.

"Malaysia has overreacted by announcing an abrupt decision to stop issuing visas to Taiwanese, when our health authorities have kept the SARS outbreak under steady control," the foreign ministry said.

Malaysia, which has reported one death from the virus, has also banned visitors from China and Hong Kong, and imposed visa requirements on travellers from Canada and Vietnam.

Taiwan has reported 23 SARS cases with no deaths. Most of the victims had visited China and Hong Kong. *AFP*

First to catch SARS an anonymous Chinese businessman

BEIJING—He's a businessman in his 40s. He has four children and lives in the industrial town of Foshan in southern China.

And, except for a small circle of doctors and Chinese officials, that's all the world knows about the man who is cited as the world's first known case—and survivor—of severe acute respiratory syndrome.

As the disease spreads around the globe, little has been released about him—and there is no sign that any more ever will be.

A World Health Organization team that visited Guangdong in the last week was tight-lipped, citing medical confidentiality.

"You wouldn't want your medical records released, would you?" team spokesperson Chris Powell said to reporters who wanted to know more.

Chinese officials say the man's case was detected on Nov. 16. A resident of Foshan in Guangdong province, he recovered and was released from a hospital—it wasn't revealed which one—in January. *AP*

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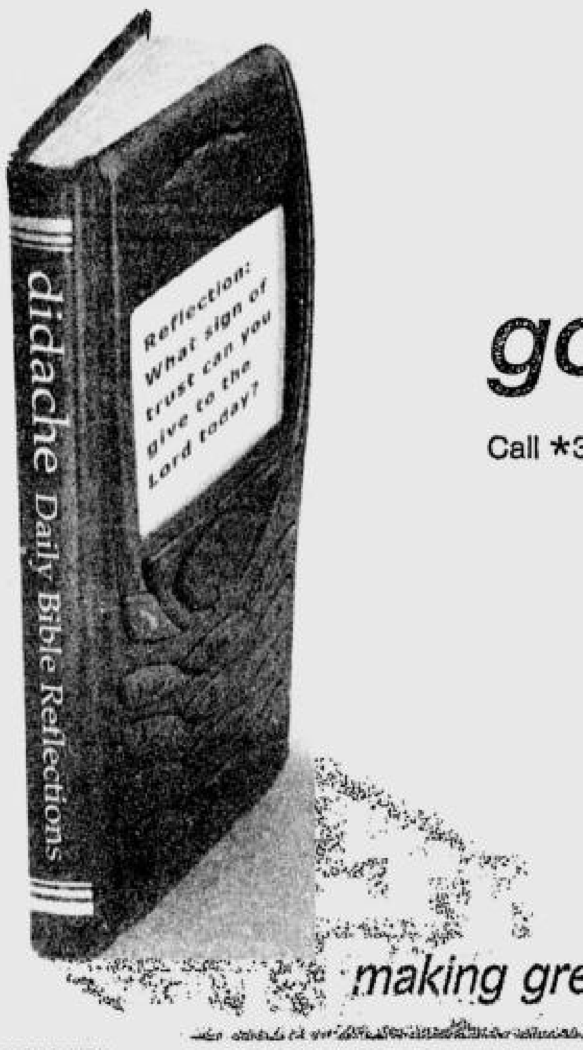
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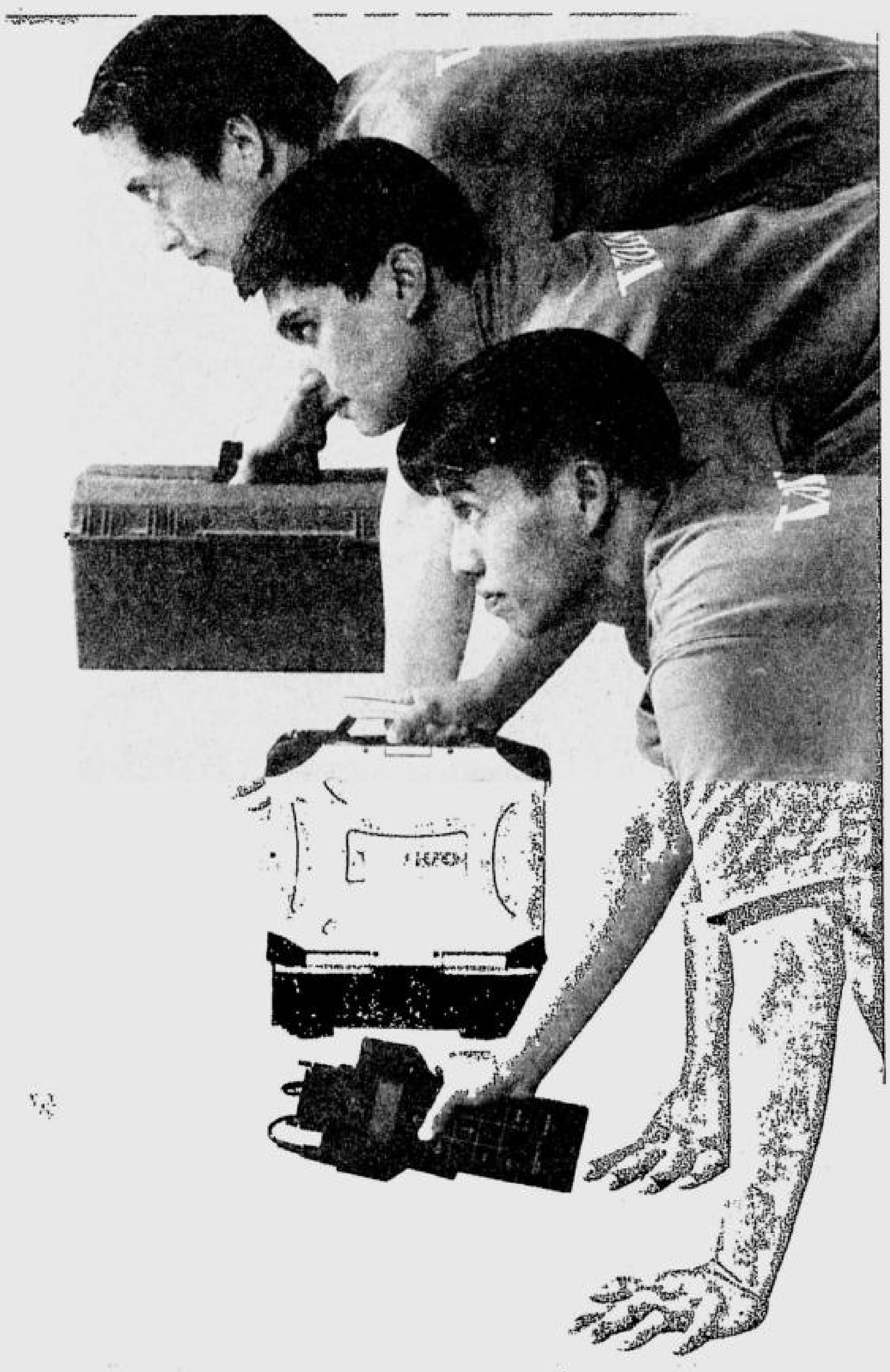

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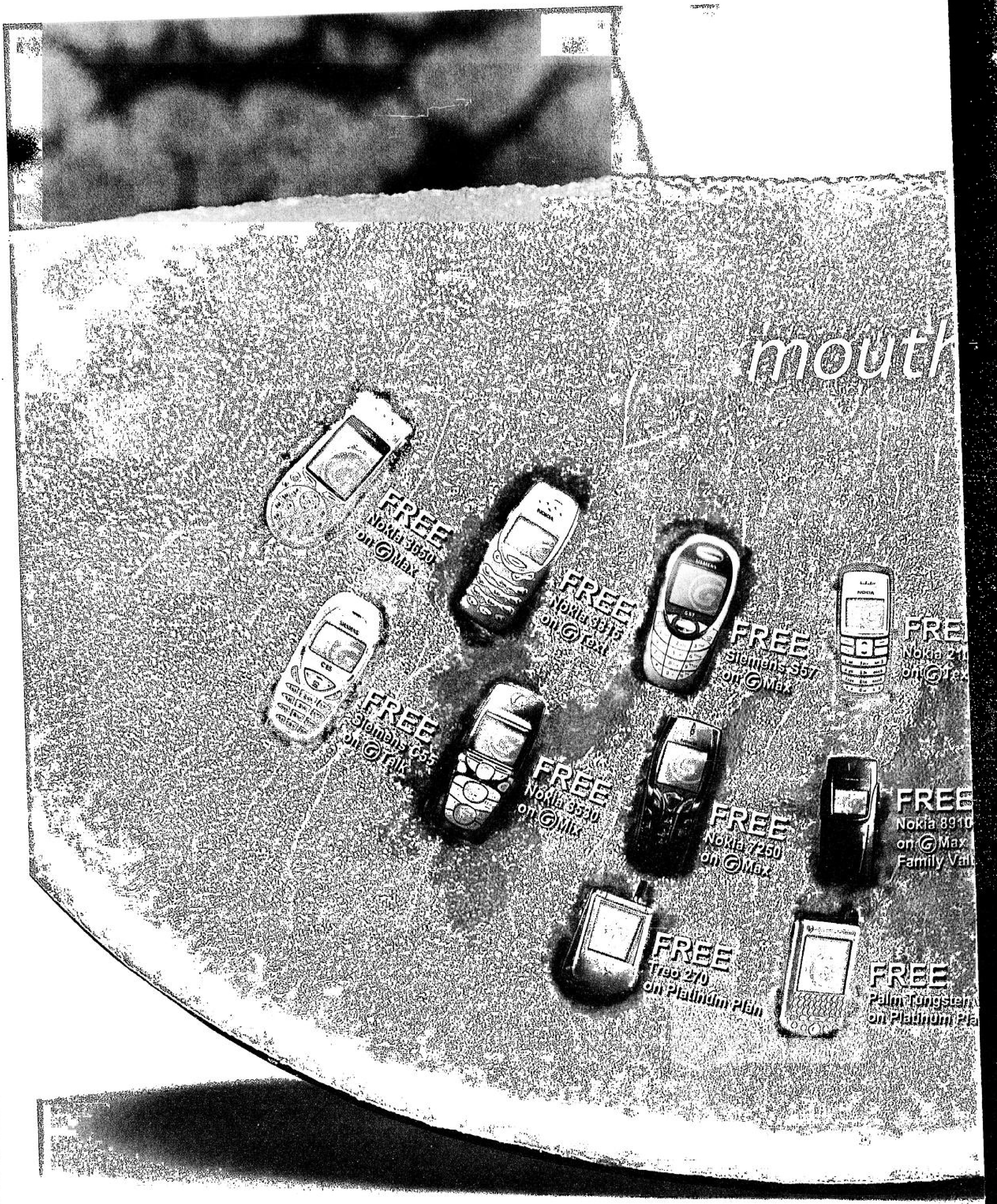

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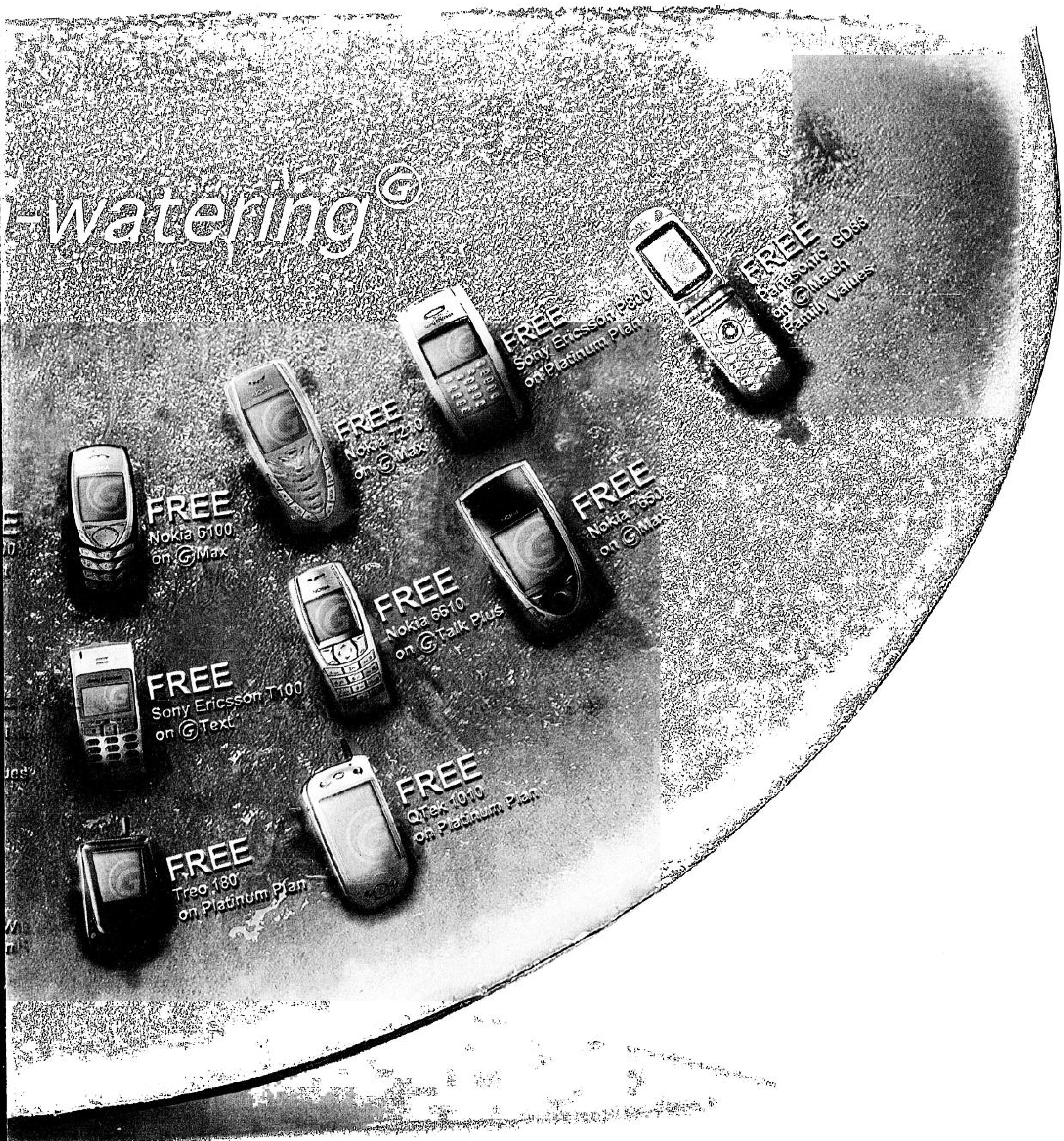
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Anti-war troika insists on key UN role

SAINT PETERSBURG—The leaders of Russia, Germany and France, who insisted Friday that only the United Nations has the legitimacy to reconstruct Iraq, were to conclude Saturday a two-day "peace camp" summit likely to further antagonize the United States.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac were each due to give a speech on the final day of their meeting here, after having voiced plans for post-war Iraq that differed markedly from that of Washington.

The positions of the anti-war trio on Iraq "have not changed," Putin said late Friday after holding a first day of talks with his guests.

"The main thing now is to restore civilian life and to resolve humanitarian problems. We believe all these issues should be resolved under the aegis of the United Nations," he told journalists in Russia's second city Saint Petersburg.

"Only they (United Nations) have the necessary legitimacy" to rebuild Iraq, said Chirac.

The reconstruction has to happen "under the umbrella of the United Nations. We need to work out the details with the coalition but we need to agree on the concept," said Schroeder.

The comments by the three European powers that fiercely opposed the US-led war on Iraq are likely to put them on a fresh collision course with Washington over the best way to handle the aftermath of the war.

Under Washington's plans, retired US general Jay Garner is expected to run Iraq's postwar interim administration.

After an initial phase that is expected to last at least six months, he would turn over the country's administration to an interim Iraqi authority made up of a broad spectrum of Iraqi political groups.

But Putin dismissed the notion that the insistence of the anti-war camp on a central role for the UN would further fracture bruised transatlantic relations.

"The goal of our meeting is not to rupture the international community," he said, but rather was part of "the search for international security in the 21st century."

Nevertheless, some of his comments were less than conciliatory.

"We are not going to export capitalist, democratic revolutions," Putin said. "If we do, we're going to end up on a slippery slope to non-ending military conflicts. We can't let that happen."

He then went on to specifically warn against any foreign attempts to carry out regime change in Syria, even as US criticisms against Damascus have steadily increased over the past few days.

And Chirac, for his part, implicitly criticized US and British forces for failing to rein in looters in Iraq amid a collapse of law and order.

"In accordance with the laws of war, it is up to the US and British forces, as powerful occupiers, to maintain order and create the conditions for the provision of humanitarian aid," he said.

Schroeder struck the most conciliatory tone of the trio.

"I don't want to talk about the past," he said. "We have to make (a military victory in Iraq) a lasting victory for Iraqis and for the whole region."

Friday marked the first time Putin has made a public statement on Iraq since US troops rolled into Baghdad to scenes of jubilation from residents and Saddam Hussein's regime crumbled.

"It is good that the Saddam Hussein regime has fallen. We have said for a long time he had to be brought down. We did not defend him, we said it should not be done by force," the Russian leader said. *AFP*

World urged not to forget Africa's poor

WASHINGTON—Activists, fearing the Iraq war will sidetrack the fight against poverty, warned Friday the world is sliding on its commitments to Africa.

"Ministers meeting in Washington must not be sidetracked from delivering on the commitments made last year to the people of Africa," Oxfam International said in a statement.

"World leaders should launch a war on poverty, starting with Africa," it said ahead of weekend meetings of the 184-nation World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The United States and Europe promised last year to lift aid by more than 20 billion dollars annually by 2006 if if developing countries pursue free markets, human rights and democracy.

The initiative was aimed at breathing life into flagging internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including halving world poverty, turning back HIV/AIDS and ensuring primary school education for all children by 2015.

"It is time for the rich countries to grasp the financing nettle and deliver on the promises they made to tackle illiteracy, disease and poverty in Africa," said ActionAid policy adviser Patrick Watt.

"Africa is massively off-track in reaching the MDGs," he said in a statement.

Infant and maternal mortality rates were increasing, life expectancy had fallen by 15 years in the past two decades and 50 million children would remain out of school by 2015, he said.

"Negligible progress has been made towards the target of halving the number of people living in poverty but failure is not inevitable with strong backing from the donor countries."

Activists said the world was slipping on key promises:

- Aid. Aid to Arica was lower in the past four years than at any point since 1984, ActionAid said in a statement.
- Education. Donors were delivering just 400 million dollars a year, less than 10 percent of the money needed to meet the 2015 target, and only 40 percent of African children went to school, Oxfam and ActionAid said. *AFP*

Cuba executes ferry hijackers

HAVANA—Amid an international outcry over its crackdown on dissidents, Cuba sent a clear message Friday to anyone who would destabilize the regime from within, summarily executing three men who tried to hijack a ferry to get to the United States.

An official statement said the men were tried "with full respect for their... basic rights," convicted Tuesday and shot dead at dawn Friday.

Another four of the men involved in the hijacking of the ferry with some 40 people aboard were sentenced to life in jail, and one man to 30 years in prison. The three women who took part were sentenced to five, three and two years respectively.

A swift appeal was nixed by the Council of State, which is led by President Fidel Castro, the statement added.

The ferry was seized April 2—a day after a Cuban plane was hijacked to the United States—and sailed halfway to the Florida coast before it ran out of fuel and was towed back to Cuba.

Eleven people reportedly armed with knives and hand guns took over the 15-meter long vessel and forced it to sail toward the United States.

The commuter craft and spent 20 hours in open waters before it was towed back to the port of Mariel 50 km from Havana.

Cuba has been staunchly critical of the US policy dubbed "wet foot, dry foot," of granting asylum and US residence to any Cuban who manages to set foot on US soil, but turning back those stopped at sea. Havana claims the US policy encourages illegal and often dangerous emigration attempts.

Havana explained the death sentences saying they took into account "the seriousness of the events for the country's security, target of a sinister program of provocations fueled by the most extremist sectors of the US government and the Miami terrorist mafia with the lone objective of creating conditions and pretexts for aggression against our country." *AFP*

US agents manipulated socialite accused of spying, lawyer claims

LOS ANGELES—A businesswoman and a society hostess accused of using her sexual relationship with a US counter-intelligence agent to spy for China was "abused" and manipulated by US agents, her lawyer said Friday.

Katrina Leung, 49, was arrested in Los Angeles on Wednesday along with a former top Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who was her long-term lover and who allegedly compromised secret US documents.

Leung is accused of carrying on romances for almost two decades with former FBI Agent James Smith, 59, and another unidentified FBI agent in San Francisco, using her access to Smith to obtain secrets for China.

The Chinese-American entrepreneur was meanwhile also working as a double agent, collecting $1.7 million from the US government for her role as a federal informant, officials said.

From 1983 to 2002, Leung had provided the FBI with information on the People's Republic of China by passing it to Smith, according to court papers.

She was charged with copying top-secret papers he brought home with him for delivery to China and is in custody in Los Angeles, while Smith faces charges of gross negligence for allowing here to look at them.

But her lawyer Janet Levine said that Leung, whose role in the case draws comparisons with World War I spy Mata Hari—executed by the French for allegedly using sexual favors to obtain information for Germany—was an innocent victim of the US intelligence community's "abuse."

"The viewpoint in the government's complaint is not the whole picture," said Levine, who would not elaborate on the alleged "abuse" of her client.

"When the facts are revealed, we are confident that Ms. Leung will be shown to be a patriot... someone who did what she was told to do," she said.

Leung was due to appear in court again Tuesday for a bail hearing on charges of obtaining documents related to national defence for China out of Smith's briefcase.

KATRINA LEUNG

Smith, a 30-year FBI veteran who retired in 2000, was released Wednesday on 250,000 dollars bail.

The Los Angeles Times on Friday quoted Justice Department officials as saying that Smith's alleged betrayal would accelerate reforms in the bureau's recruitment system and its handling of informants.

The paper said the Leung case would have an effect similar to that of convicted Russian spy and FBI agent Robert Hanssen, which sparked an overhaul of the FBI's computer system. *AFP*

Venezuelans agreed on recall poll

CARACAS—Venezuela's government and opposition, seeking to lower tensions in the crisis-hit nation, have agreed that a recall election on President Hugo Chavez's mandate may be held.

Organization of American States' secretary general Cesar Gaviria announced the development to reporters Friday, some five months after he became involved in bitter talks between the administration and opposition leaders.

Gaviria's announcement comes one year after a coup briefly ousted Chavez last April. Chavez returned to power some 47 hours later.

Under the 22-point agreement reached Friday, negotiating parties agreed that a recall referendum on whether Chavez remains in power can be held if a constitutionally-determined number of voters demands it.

The agreement will be signed in two weeks, in the presence of Gaviria and another key player in the talks, Nobel Peace laureate and former US president Jimmy Carter, said Fernando Jaramillo, a spokesperson for the OAS leader.

In Washington, a State Department spokesperson, Philip Reeker, said the United States welcomed the agreement.

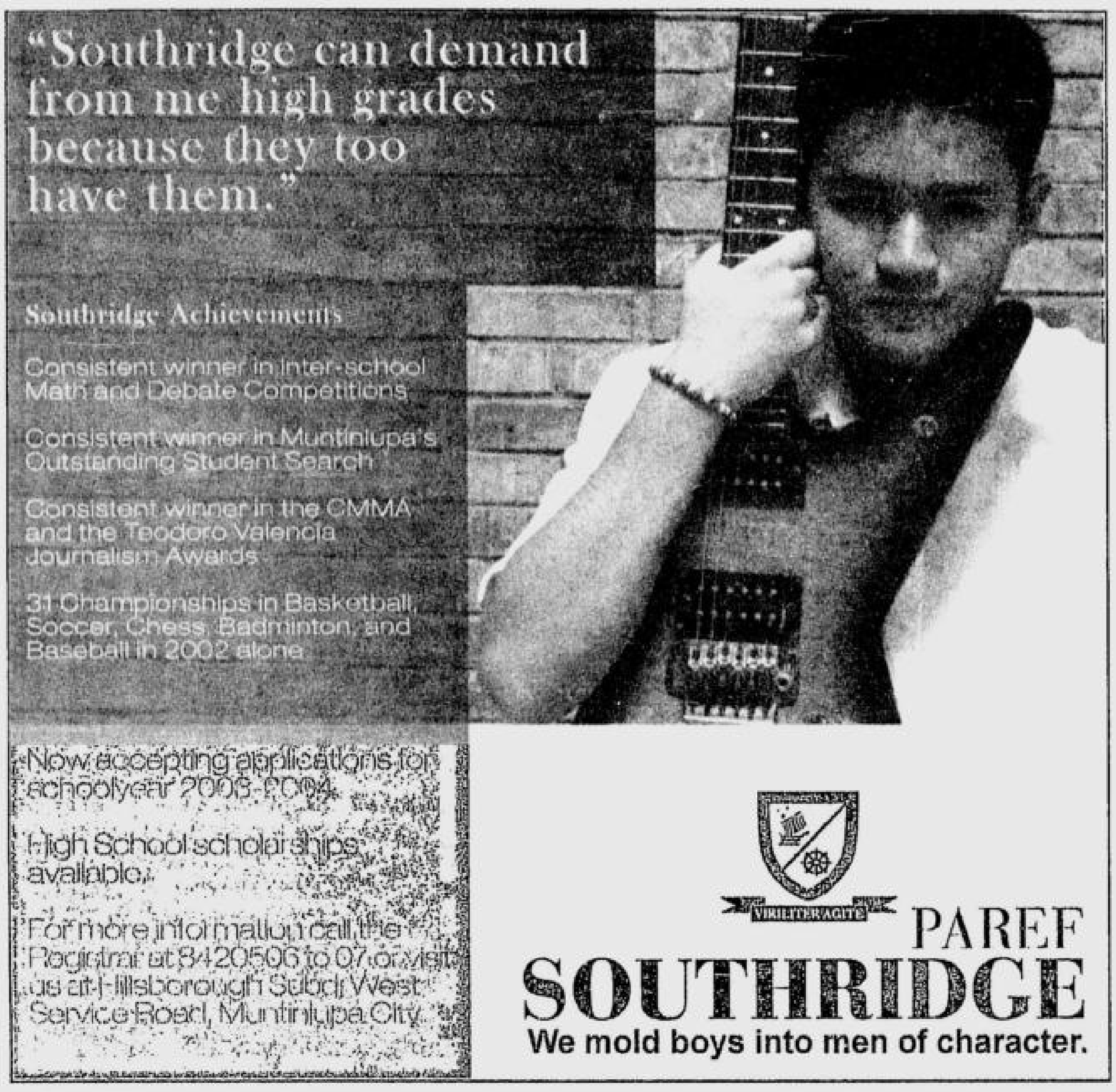
"This positive development paves the way for a constitutionally-provided recall referendum concerning the president's continued tenure. Both sides pledge not to impede or obstruct implementation of a recall effort," Reeker said.

"The Chavez administration and the opposition's Democratic Coordinating Committee now must expeditiously endorse the dialogue teams' hard work."

Gaviria has been involved in negotiations since November, trying to mediate the political crisis that has sharply divided the nation, and included a 63-day strike severely affecting the oil sector and other parts of the economy.

When the strike ended on February 2, the government called on the opposition to try to reach an agreement.

The US State Department spokesman noted that Friday's accord left Venezuelans "closer to reaching 'the constitutional, democratic, peaceful and electoral' solution called for in OAS Permanent Council Resolution 833. *AFP*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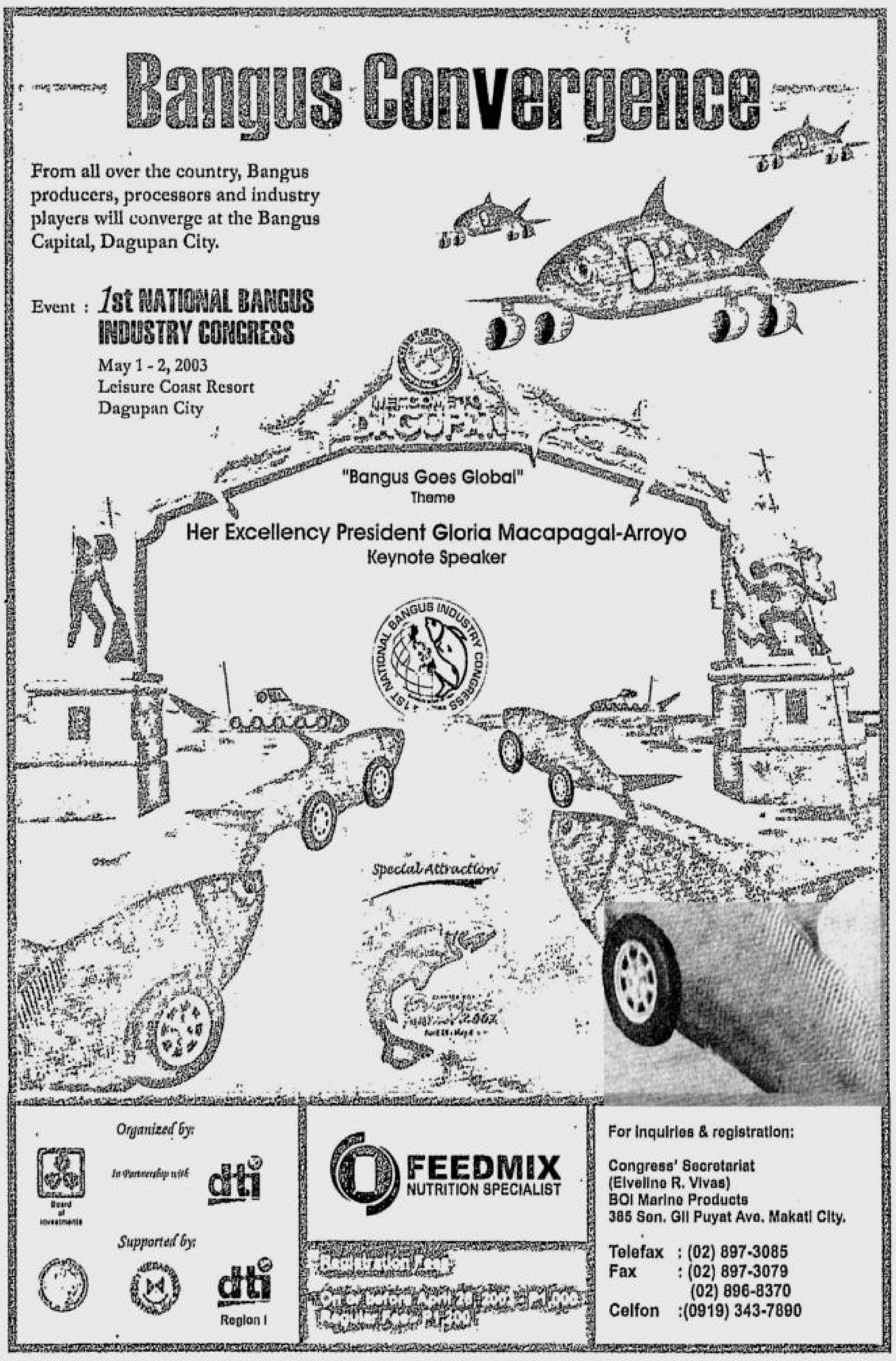
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PNP officials sacked over 'jueteng'

DAGUPAN CITY—Sacrificial lambs.

This was how most Pangasinan residents perceived the relief of the provincial police director and the Dagupan police chief because of their alleged failure to stop jueteng.

Senior Supt. Arturo Cacdac, provincial police director, and Supt. Noli Talino, Dagupan police chief, resigned from their posts on Friday after learning that they will be relieved to pave the way for an "impartial investigation" on their alleged failure to stop the illegal numbers game.

Both Cacdac and Talino will be temporarily assigned to the Ilocos regional police office in La Union.

Callers to a radio program here on Saturday described the two police officials as "sacrificial lambs" in the campaign of Local Government Secretary Jose Lina against jueteng.

"Lina said he would resign if he could not stop jueteng by May. But since jueteng continues to proliferate in most provinces, like in his home province of Laguna, he has to chop off some heads to show (people) that he was not remiss in his job," a caller said.

Another caller claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo may be thinking of replacing Lina so the latter "has to show that he was doing something about jueteng."

Some residents here said Cacdac's relief was an initial victory for Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, chair of the Krusada Laban sa Jueteng, a group campaigning for the eradication of the illegal numbers game in the country.

Cruz, however, said he has nothing to do with the relief.

"The criteria set by the Department of Interior and Local Government (on the eradication of jueteng) has been in effect long before I joined hands with Lina in the fight against jueteng," Cruz said.

He said he and Lina started to work together only in November last year when Krusada was launched during a jueteng summit held here by the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese.

Cruz said he was "sorry" because it was only the police officials who got the ax in the seemingly failing anti-jueteng campaign. He lamented that local officials were not held accountable for their failure to stop jueteng. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

High court orders Napocor to pay taxes to Cabanatuan City

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Upholding the taxing powers of local governments, the Supreme Court on Friday ordered the National Power Corp. to pay the Cabanatuan City government P808,606.41 in franchise taxes for electricity sold in 1992.

In a 28-page decision, the SC's third division, chaired by Associate Justice Reynato Puno, dismissed Napocor's petition to reverse two Court of Appeals rulings, dated March 12, 2001 and July 10, 2001, which ordered the power firm to pay the city its franchise taxes.

Napocor contended that Cabanatuan City, which sought to collect the franchise tax by virtue of an ordinance, had no authority to impose the tax since by provision of law, local governments cannot tax government entities like the Napocor.

It added that as a non-profit organization, Napocor is exempted from paying all forms of taxes, charges, duties and fees pursuant to Republic Act 6935 or the corporation law.

In dismissing Napocor's appeal, the SC said Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code (LGC), has already widened the taxing powers of cities and municipalities.

The SC said: "One of the most significant provisions of the LGC is the removal of the blanket exclusion of instrumentalities and agencies of the national government from the coverage of local taxation."

"Although as a general rule, local units cannot impose taxes of any kind on the national government, this rule now admits of an exception, that is, when specific provisions of the LGC authorize local units to impose taxes," it said.

In asking for a reversal, the Napocor sought refuge in the case of Basco vs Pagcor where the SC declared that no local body could tax agencies or instrumentalities of the national government.

But the SC said its decision in that case was handed down prior to the passage of the LGC, which now empowers local units to tax national agencies.

In fact, the SC said the controlling case now should be Mactan vs Marcos, which upheld the powers of Congress to declare that agencies imbued with governmental functions could now be embraced by local taxation.

"In enacting the LGC, Congress exercised its prerogative to tax instrumentalities and agencies of government as it sees fit," the SC said.

2 gov't lawyers tagged witnesses in Ecleo defense

By Jolene R. Bulambot and Suzzane B. Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Lawyers of cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. stunned the prosecution panel on Thursday when he identified his witnesses—two government prosecutors.

During the pre-trial conference on Thursday, Orlando Salatandre, Ecleo's lawyer, told the court that he would ask that a subpoena be issued to acting Cebu City prosecutor Jose Pedrosa and assistant city prosecutor Jesus Feliciano.

The two prosecutors would prove the defense's contention that the prosecution had no strong evidence that would link his client to the killing of his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Feliciano headed the three-man panel, which Pedrosa formed to handle the preliminary investigation of the complaint of parricide against Ecleo.

In a resolution dated March 12, 2002, the panel had recommended that the case be remanded to the police for further case buildup because the evidence against Ecleo was not strong enough to warrant the filing of parricide charges in court.

Assistant prosecutor Nicolas Sellon reviewed the resolution. In a report dated April 18, 2002, Sellon overturned Feliciano's findings and ruled that there was probable cause to file parricide charges against Ecleo, supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association.

Salatandre said Feliciano would be presented as his first witness while Pedrosa would be called to the witness stand attest to the existence of the panel's resolution.

Pedrosa, however, told the court that the defense could not use Feliciano's resolution because it was not the official stand of the office and it had been overturned by the reviewing prosecutor.

"We object. This document (Feliciano's resolution) should never be out. It was not supposed to be in their (defense lawyers) hands," Pedrosa told Judge Generosa Labra of the Regional Trial Court.

Pedrosa later told the INQUIRER that Salatandre's move was "improper."

Police say they arrested suspect in Baron slaying

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The police in Central Mindanao has confirmed that the Task Force Cardeño had captured last Wednesday one of the main suspects in the Dec, 31, 2001 murder of self-styled Young Officers Union (YOU) spokesperson Alexander Baron Cervantes.

Senior Supt. Nestor Sanares, Central Mindanao police chief, made the confirmation during a media briefing at Camp Fermin Lira Jr. here on Thursday morning.

"We received the information that the group of Gen. Maganto captured the suspect but we don't have details of the operation," Sanares said.

He also said he has no idea as to the whereabouts of the captured suspect.

Sanares said Maganto's team might have brought the suspect to Manila where he will be presented to the PNP hierarchy.

It was not known what was the participation of the arrested suspect to the Cervantes killing.

The unidentified suspect was nabbed in his hideout in Sitio Morales, Barangay Centrala in Surallah town South Cotabato by Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, chief of the Task Force Cardeño created by President Macapagal Arroyo in December last year.

The President created the Task Force to solve the year-old cold-blood murder of the YOU spokesperson.

Former Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales, the alleged triggerman in the Cervantes murder, tagged founding YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño as the mastermind of the crime.

Cardeño, who is now facing murder case before the Department of Justice, has been the subject of a police manhunt after a team of investigators failed to catch him at his residence in Biñan, Laguna.

Cervantes, a resident of BF Resort in Las Piñas, was a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1989.

He was shot around along Zapote Road in Barangay Pamplona, Las Piñas while standing by the roadside apparently waiting for somebody.

The killing took place amid rumors of destabilization attempts being hatched against President Macapagal. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Mindanao
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Davao gets beating from terrorists

By Carlos Isagani T. Zarate
Davao City

March 4, 2003. Davao International Airport. Casualty: 23 dead, including children, more than a hundred maimed.

April 2, 2003. Sasa Wharf, Davao City's main seaport. Casualty: 16 dead, including children, 55 injured.

April 3, 2003. Four mosques in Davao City bombed, strafed. No casualty.

In the aftermath of the April 2 bombing of Davao City's main international seaport,Sasa Wharf, the government found the city, in haste, in a "state of lawless violence."

With this declaration, it effectively thrust the armed forces to intervene in an otherwise police operation to track down the bombing perpetrators and "wage all out war on terrorism."

At least 450 Army soldiers coming from the AFP's special forces battalions—some coming from as far as Bohol and Zamboanga—have already swarmed and were conspicuously deployed in different areas of the city. A thousand more soldiers are expected next month, authorities claimed, to complete the "anti-terrorist" contingent called Task Force Davao.

Yet, until now, among the questions that beg to be answered is: Why has Davao City become the target of these attacks? But then again, why not and why now?

Violent history

Davao City has had its own history of violence and bombing incidents that included the San Pedro Cathedral (which was hit twice, one in April 1981 andanother in December 1993) and Bankerohan market. In the 1980s, the city was an arena of a tit-for-tat brand of summary executions better known as "salvagings" against those opposing the Marcos dictatorship. It was also the birthplace of the urban partisan unit of the communist movement—the sparrows—that targeted "abusive" persons, including the military, police and other government officials. After the Edsa uprising, Davao City evolved into a laboratory of anti-communist vigilantes.

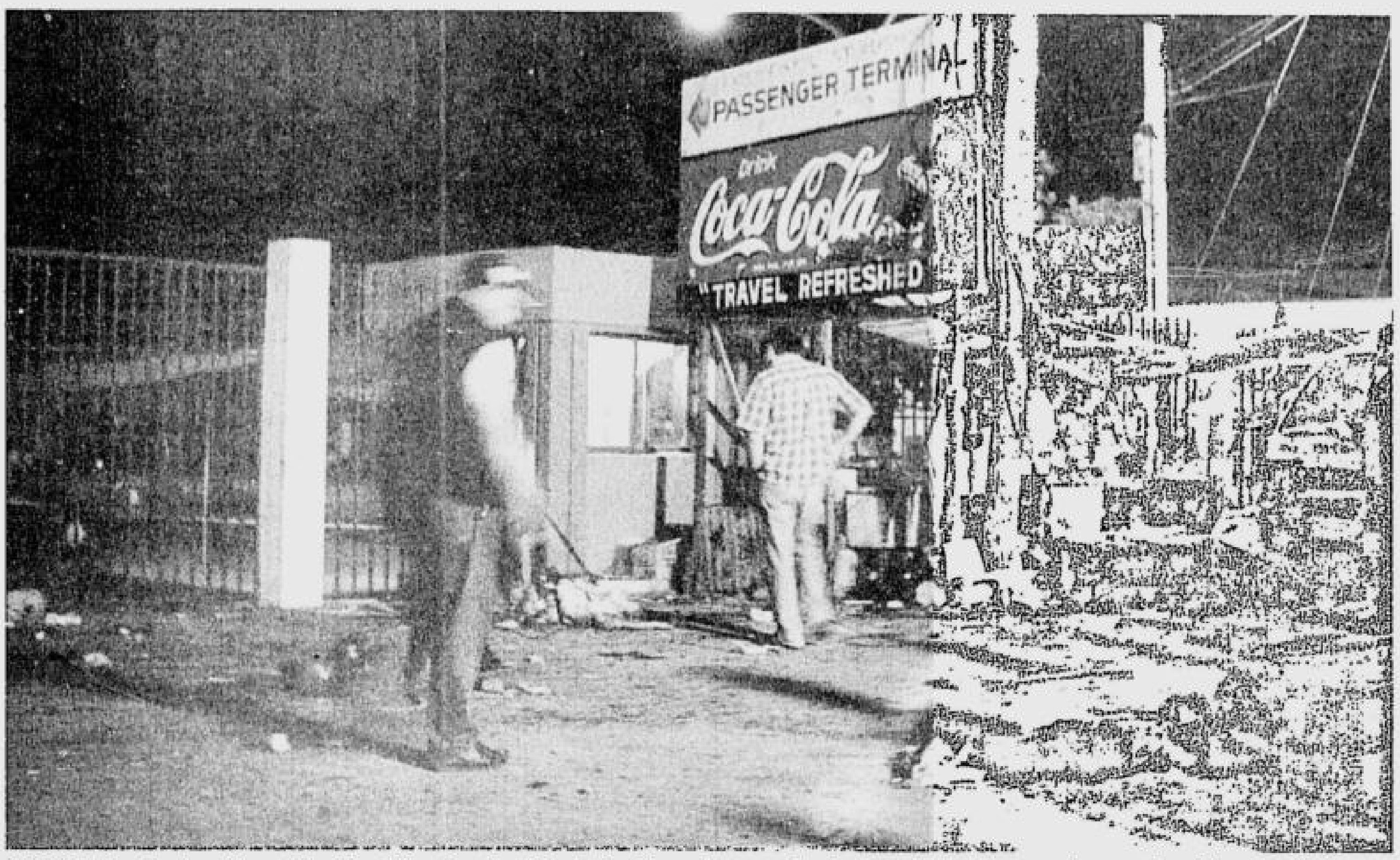
Except for the December 1993 San Pedro Cathedral bombing, the 1990s saw Davao City transforming its image into one of Asia's "Most Livable Cities," and the country's Most Child-friendly City and, recently, the Most Competitive City.

All seemed to be going well for Davao City which had been spared the bombing incidents that had hit its neighbors like General Santos City, the Cotabato and Zamboanga areas and other parts of the island's central and western regions. Also, armed skirmishes between government forces and the island's two main revolutionary fronts—the MILF and the NPA—were also pronounced in these areas and the outlying provinces in Southern Mindanao.

But for a failed foray into the nearby Samal Island in 2001, the Abu Sayyaf bandit group's activities were mainly concentrated in the western parts of Mindanao.

Shield

It was as if the city had a shield that protected it from the harsh blows suffered by its neighbors. Among others, some attributed this to the so-called "constructive engagement" made by tough-talking Mayor Rodrigo Duterte—and even to some extent by his erstwhile protegé former mayor and now Undersecretary Benjamin de Guzman—with the main guerilla fronts.



HOURS after the bombing at the Sasa Wharf, authorities led by Mayor Duterte (in checkered shirt) inspect the remains of the terrorist act.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO

In particular, Duterte prided himself on constantly keeping in touch with the "responsible leaders" of the MILF, NPA and even the MNLF faction identified with now detained Moro leader Nur Misuari. There were also occasions in the past when he openly invited members of these rebel groups, even including the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, to have their "R&R" in the city or even attend major events for as long as the city is spared any violent incident or skirmish. He also appointed known Muslim leaders to city hall positions.

On top of these, Duterte, dubbed "The Punisher" by Time Magazine, is known for "hitting hard" on criminals, especially those involved in drugs.

Duterte's support for the police in terms of budgetary allocation is also very noticeable with the acquisition of new vehicles and modern equipment.

Davao City is also the only city in the country with the most modern emergency hotline "911" similar to that in the United States.

The anti-crime campaign did not escape criticisms despite tacit public support, for instance, in the campaign against criminality. Duterte was also criticized for failing to abate the summary executions perpetrated by anti-crime vigilantes against suspected criminals, including minors. This led critics to believe, rightly or otherwise, that the killings have the blessings of the administration or, at the very least, are tolerated.

Premium

Perhaps the premium for this "peaceful co-existence" with the guerilla groups and the all-out campaign against criminality has been the wide projection, locally and internationally, Davao City has been getting. Its "stable peace and order situation" that has lured investments and boosted tourism is a feat the entire country would have wanted to accomplish. For this, Mayor Duterte was even appointed consultant on peace and order by President Macapagal. Of late, the city was even touted as the convention capital of the south.

But the March 4 and April 2 incidents totally altered the landscape.

Hours after the airport blast, the government quickly accused the MILF of instigating the bombing. A visibly angered Duterte was later seen on nationwide television cursing the "terrorists" whom he blamed for the carnage and vowed that justice will be meted "as sure as the sun rises in the east."

In its aftermath, despite the vehement denials, key MILF leaders, including its chair Salamat Hashim, were charged in court. Also charged were hundreds of others, mostly still unidentified, and two Moro residents from Kabacan, North Cotabato, who tried to claim the body of the alleged "suicide bomber" welcoming home a returning overseas worker. Both police and military, likewise, dismissed the claim of the Abu Sayyaf that it was behind the bombing, saying it was pure propaganda.

The incident, however, galvanized the entire Davao community into denouncing acts of bombings and other forms of terrorism perpetrated by any group. This culminated in a mammoth march rally attended by nearly a hundred thousand residents on March 14, two days before the 66th celebration of the Araw ng Dabaw on March 16.

Beating

But the beating Davao City got continues.

Although Duterte immediately blamed the MILF for the March 4 incident, the aftermath of the April 2 bombing was different: he and the police were cautious not to point to any group. He instead warned misguided groups behind the mosques' grenade-throwing and strafing incidents, saying "vengeance" was not what the situation needed.

The "cautious" stance however was short lived. On April 6, during his regular Sunday TV program, Duterte tagged the alleged "Special Urban Terrorist Action Group (Sutag)" of the MILF as responsible for the April 2 bombing. Citing intelligence reports provided by the military, Duterte also made a Powerpoint presentation detailing the alleged links between "Sutag" and the Jemaah Islamiah and Bin Laden's al-Qaida. "I expect more bombings to take place," Duterte said, yet vowing "I have my time to equalize things with them (terrorists)."

And why Davao City became the target of attack was, in fact, answered by Duterte himself. "That is an illusion," he was quoted as saying immediately after the March 4 bombing. The "illusion" he was referring to, surprisingly, was the "secure" peace and order situation of the city, especially during his administration. He conceded that even prior to the airport incident, he had been warning the national government that Davao City would be attacked "one day" because some groups "(would) want to make a big political statement."

Indeed, as the political center of the South, Davao City represents a symbol, an ideal. Striking it deliberately at its core would then mean several things. Among these, if one believes the government's line, is that these acts were perpetuated by "terrorists" to deliver a strong message that they can take the "battle" to the center and not just fight it on the periphery.

Justification

However, these terrorist acts may also justify everything—from declaring a "state of lawless violence" to martial law, from stoking religious conflict to undermining the peace initiatives, from political vendetta to pre-election machinations and orchestrations, from the justification of the Balikatan exercises to the passing of more draconian laws like the anti-terrorism bill, among others.

In fact, concerns were raised by human rights groups over the reported forcible abduction of two known community and religious Muslim leaders—Datu Sabdura Ala of Ma-a and Ustadz Alimudin Zulkifli of Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur—by hooded armed men onboard unmarked vehicles.

"Are these abductions not acts of lawless violence committed against the civilians?" asked Ariel Casilao, secretary general of the rights group Karapatan.

(Curiously, police authorities were also on the "hot trail" of five Indonesians who reportedly entered Davao City and are alleged to be part of a group that perpetrated the Davao bombings. Arrests of other sets of suspects were also reported in the cities of Gen. Santos and Cotabato, where the suspects allegedly confessed their participation.)

But whatever these investigations and whatever the agenda of these perpetrators, as "sure as the sun rises in the east," one thing is very real: Davao City is now in a "state of lawless violence." And tomorrow and even in the coming days, so is the whole of Mindanao or maybe, even the whole country.

> 'Indeed, as the political center of the South, Davao City represents a symbol, an ideal. Striking it deliberately at its core would then mean several things'

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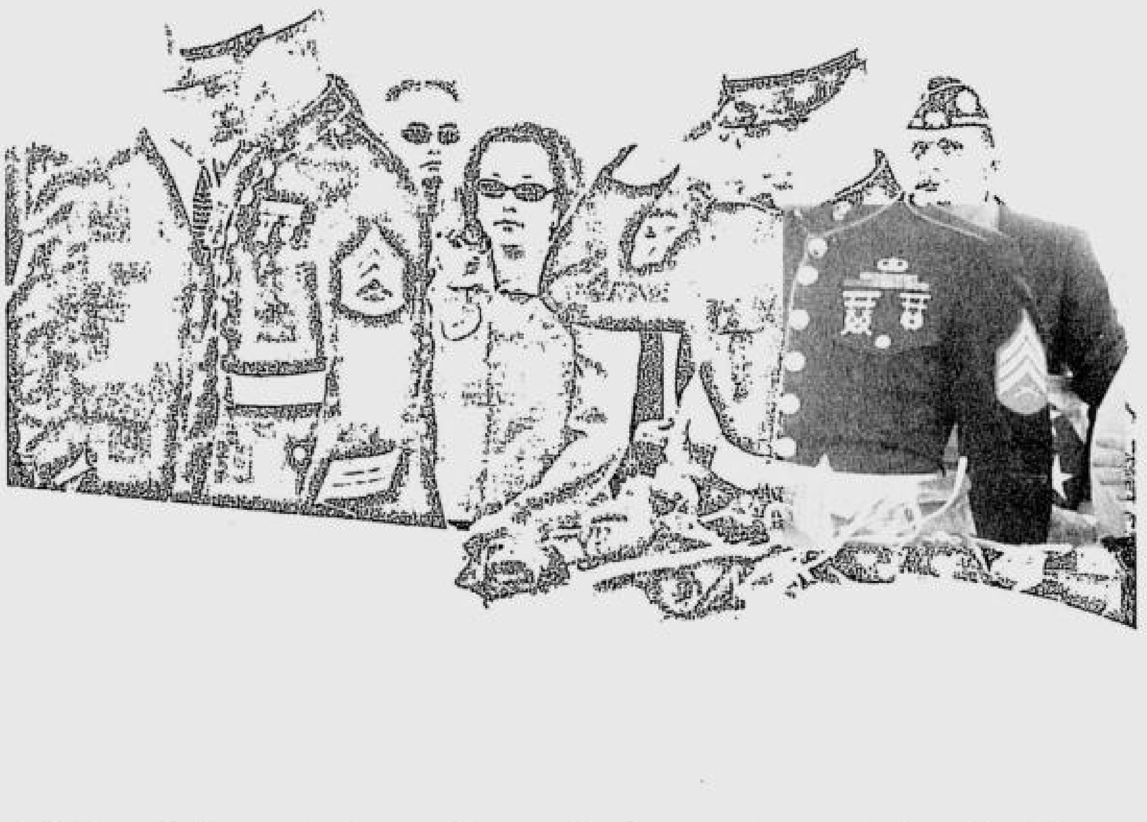
WORLD WAR II veterans came to condole with the widow, Stacy (center), and her parents, Eddie and Rosie Bernardo. The veterans, from left are, Marcos Abinsay, Romualdo Urbano and Ernesto Anolin. ERIC LACHICA

Fil-Am war casualty gets US citizenship on the spot

From page A1



MARINE Sgt. David Menusa (right) salutes his elder brother, Sgt. Joseph Menusa, during funeral rites in Sta. Maria, California on Saturday. His brother's widow, Stacy, and other comrades and relatives look on. ERIC LACHICA

Stacy had previously been quoted as saying that her husband was "100 percent gung-ho and was very proud to be shipped back to the Persian Gulf."

Menusa had served in the 1991 Gulf War.

Stacy had said that the most action he saw in the first Iraqi war was when he accidentally shot a camel one night. "After that, his friends always kidded him about returning to the region to shoot more animals."

Menusa had also served in Okinawa, Japan. He also spent some time in Guantanamo, Cuba before moving to Hawaii and then to California. For three years, he served as a Marine recruiter in the cities of Hayward, Fremont and Livermore in northern California.

Stacy had described her husband as "a happy and strong-willed man."

"He was always upbeat and had an uncanny ability to lift the spirits of everyone around him. He had an aura about him, always with a smile on his face. He knew how to make others around him happy, even in bad times."

Mourners packed the St. Louis de Monfort church to hear eulogies to Menusa, who was remembered as a devoted father, husband, son and brother, a loyal friend and a war hero. They followed his flag-draped casket in a motorcade from the church to the nearby Santa Maria cemetery.

They stood in silence as shots were fired in a 21-gun salute and a military bugler sounded taps, the mournful notes that brought tears to the eyes of many. Stacy stood stoically, her eyes hidden behind dark glasses, while the couple's 3-year-old son, Joshua, watched. Menusa's Filipino mother, Virginia Kenny, sobbed in the arms of another son, David, also a Marine.

Ultimate honor

"Your husband made the ultimate sacrifice for America," BCIS director for California Don Neufeld said, as he handed Stacy her husband's citizenship certificate. "It is only fitting that we bestow on him our nations's ultimate honor—citizenship."

There are more than 40,000 noncitizens currently serving in the US military, according to Neufeld.

Filipino veteran Ernesto Anolin, 81, was happy with the recognition bestowed on Menusa.

"We didn't know Joe (Menusa), but we are here to show solidarity with a fellow veteran," said an emotional Anolin, who drove four hours from his hometown of Delano, California, with three other aging veterans of World War II.

Anolin belongs to the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans (ACFV), which lobbied for posthumous citizenship for Menusa.

Vets still not recognized

But Anolin couldn't help lament the "lack of recognition" he and thousands of fellow World War II veterans have had to endure for many years.

"We (WWII veterans) served under the same flag as Joe, yet we are not treated the same way," he said.

The ACFV, led by Washington-based grassroots advocate Eric Lachica, son of a WWII veteran, said they were still fighting for benefits, such as health care and disability pension, that Filipino veterans have long been denied.

At a reception following the news conference, Stacy fondly remembered her husband's love for Filipino food.

"He liked *sinigang*, *adobo*, *pancit*, *lumpia* and *puto*, said Stacy during a conversation with the INQUIRER. She said their son Joshua loves *ube*-flavored sweets.

Stacy, whose paternal grandfather hailed from Cardona, Rizal, said she never learned how to cook Filipino food but her mother-in-law always prepared and brought them scrumptious Filipino dishes.

Santa Maria, Stacy's hometown, is located in the central coast of California, 250 miles south of San Francisco and 170 miles north of Los Angeles.

Social workers go from Pikit to Baghdad

From page A1

conflicts in Mindanao will be sent as part of the Philippines' contribution to the rebuilding of Iraq.

And as Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman put it to the INQUIRER yesterday, such a team had been "trained" well for the job given the disasters in their own country, man-made or otherwise.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is now assembling the contingent that will help in the United Nations' rehabilitation efforts in Iraq.

Soliman said the team would consist of 40 to 50 members picked from the DWSD staff.

Around 100 DWSD personnel have so far applied to join the humanitarian mission that, according to Soliman, offers not only a chance to be "a part of history" but also per diem dollar allowances.

Soliman said she was quite surprised at the number of applicants for the Iraq mission, the recruitment for which started last week.

"The more adventurous among us" were among the first to sign up, she said.

The DWSD will name the mission members shortly after the Lenten season.

But at the outset, Soliman said 60 percent of the team that would work in Iraq for three to six months would be recruited from the DWSD regional offices in Mindanao.

Regions 9 to 12

There is a preference for Regions 9 to 12, or Western, Northern, Southern and Central Mindanao, where government social workers are predominantly Muslim.

"For the Iraq mission, we prefer Muslim [social workers] who can understand or speak Arabic" and who can "understand" Islamic culture, Soliman said, when asked if social workers who recently saw action in trouble spots like Pikit would most likely to be sent to Iraq.

In Soliman's opinion, Filipino social workers generally know their job "very well, considering that we are visited by an average of 27 typhoons each year, our country lies along the earthquake belt and we have running armed conflicts."

DWSD personnel have also been instilled with "cultural sensitivities," and they know as "SOP," for example, that food aid packages for Muslim communities should "never include pork," she said, adding:

"We know how to put up the system, and whom to prioritize—the children and the elderly, who are the ones most vulnerable in any disaster."

The mission will work with international groups in setting up disaster relief centers and conduct stress debriefing sessions for war victims.

Some members may also be tapped to run "missing persons" desks, similar to those they put up after major battles in Mindanao displaced entire villages.

As for the daily allowances awaiting Iraq-bound relief workers, Soliman said the UN had yet to set the amount.

Peacekeepers

If social work is being planned, can peacekeeping efforts be far behind?

A large number of policemen have volunteered for the Philippines' 100-member peacekeeping mission in post-war Iraq.

SPO3 Maximiano Gandeza, a member of the peacekeeping force under the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia from May 1992 to February 1993, signed up for the mission just for the experience.

"I feel tense and excited at the same time because we don't know if forces loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will unleash biological attacks while we are there. If I survive, that will be an experience worth telling," Gandeza told the INQUIRER.

SPO1 Ramon Martinez and SPO3 Nicanor Garcia, who had both served in UN peacekeeping missions in East Timor and Kosovo, said they volunteered for Iraq "because of the challenge."

Martinez said that with the Iraqis supposedly appearing more hostile than the people of East Timor and Kosovo, "pacifying them would be more challenging."

The leadership of the Philippine National Police has yet to release the names of the new peacekeepers.

PNP Director for Plans Hercules Cataluna said more than 100 commissioned and non-commissioned officers have signed up.

But an officer said he learned that there are more than 300 hopefuls, including himself.

Cataluna said the PNP has a "standby force" of at least 100 personnel just awaiting the go-signal from the UN or the US-led coalition forces.

"We don't know yet whether the peacekeeping mission will be under the UN or the US-led coalition," he said in a phone interview. "But we have a ready force just in case a request for the deployment of Filipino policemen comes up."

The force is composed of policemen who served as UN peacekeepers in former strife-torn areas such as East Timor, Kosovo and Cambodia starting in the early 1990s.

"Those who [joined] peacekeeping missions in East Timor and Kosovo will be redeployed," Cataluna said.

PNP officials were to have announced the names of the peacekeepers Friday afternoon. Those chosen are to undergo a two-week orientation at the former US naval base in Subic.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier announced that the government would send a 500-member humanitarian mission to help in the reconstruction of Iraq. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

Bush calls, thanks GMA

From page A1

cial forces are helping Philippine troops who are fighting rebels in the country's north and south.

Bush also spoke on the phone yesterday with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, who has supported the coalition's war against Iraq, Fleischer said.

Bush made the phone calls to his key allies in Asia and Europe before spending about three hours at two Washington-area military hospitals visiting the bedsides of US troops wounded during the Iraq war.

Citizenship on the spot

At the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in northwest Washington, Bush witnessed two foreign-born Marines, one of them a Filipino, take their oath as American citizens.

According to the New York Times, Lance Cpl. O.J. Santamaria, who is from the Philippines, insisted on standing while taking the oath of citizenship even if he was in great pain and Bush had instructed him to sit down.

OFWs preferred

During the teleconference at Malacañang's "war room," Ms Macapagal told Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Bayani Mangibin that he would head the two task forces.

"So we would send (advance) parties to Kuwait," she told Mangibin.

Mangibin said he expected a "substantial" number of overseas Filipino workers in Kuwait and other Middle East countries to be hired by contractors who would take part in the reconstruction.

He said major companies preferred Filipino workers over other nationalities for their skills and professionalism.

Ms Macapagal said she would be holding her last teleconference on the Iraq crisis on Monday, when she would formally announce the task forces she has formed.

Roy Cimatu, head of the Middle East preparedness team, personally reported to the President for the first time since the outbreak of the Iraq war.

Cimatu and the 11 members in his team had been stationed in Kuwait since March 20. He and four others flew home yesterday.

"I'm very happy you're back here, safe and sound. (I'm) very happy that our workers are safe and sound," the President beamed at Cimatu.

She noted that except for the three Filipino-American soldiers (*See story on Page A1*) who died in combat, no overseas Filipino worker in the Middle East was hurt or displaced by the war.

Cimatu, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, told the President that he found this assignment more difficult than anything he had handled in his military career.

He said the responsibility over the 1.3 million overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East weighed heavily on him.

In his report, Cimatu said Kuwaiti employers looked favorably on Filipinos because they did not relocate to other places during the war, unlike other nationalities.

"They don't have a Roy Cimatu," Ms Macapagal told Cimatu, who just grinned.

"Having stood heroically on the side of the victors, Her Excellency and the Filipino people can look forward to being looked upon with favor when the real reconstruction begins. We are looking forward to a lot of jobs for our OFWs," Cimatu said.

Ms Macapagal "walked out" twice while Cimatu was delivering his report.

She suddenly left the war room shortly after Cimatu began, prompting Cimatu to stop. She returned a couple of minutes later, and was surprised that Cimatu had stopped.

Cimatu finished his report and was entertaining questions from the media when the President again rose and, without excusing herself, left the room.

When she did not return after several minutes, her deputy chief of staff Bobby Capco said the teleconference, which was being broadcast live over state-run Radyo ng Bayan, was over. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Filipinos asked: Switch channels on Palm Sunday

From page A1

Metro Manila churches today.

The letter exhorted all Catholics to "put our faith in action by expressing concern and solidarity with the least, the last and lost"—verily the mindset of the Carpenter's Son even before He arrived in Jerusalem to the jubilation of palm-frond waving crowds.

To mark the golden jubilee of its social arm, the Archdiocese of Manila has given this year's Palm Sunday a second name: "Caritas Sunday."

"We urge everyone to get involved in programs that would help alleviate the sufferings of the poor," the bishops said.

All Mass collections in the archdiocese today will go to Caritas Manila in support of its projects, mainly scholarships and shelter for poor and abused children, health missions, job placements and prison ministries.

Pray for Iraqis

But the CBCP—recalling how on that first Palm Sunday more than 20 centuries ago, the hopeful people of Jerusalem sang "hosannas" to their acknowledged Savior—also asked the flock to pray for all Iraqi people who, at this time, were welcoming another kind of "liberator."

CBCP Secretary General Hernando Coronel said there were at least 250,000 Catholics belonging to about 10 dioceses in the strife-torn country. He said Caritas International and Caritas Iraq were working together to deliver humanitarian aid there.

In his own Holy Week message titled, "Love is the Power of the Cross," Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday asked the faithful to make this annual period of reflection a "springtime of renewal."

Citing the "suffering, hatred and division" experienced by people in war zones, Sin pointed out: "Jesus on the cross showed us how valuable mankind is."

Christ's own sacrifice of life illustrated that "the most powerful weapon is not wealth, nuclear force or a formidable army," Sin said. "Love is the greatest force behind the ultimate victory in life and history. Unless we love like the Crucified Lord, we can never be victors."

No confirmed SARS case in RP yet–WHO

From page A1

Dayrit was reacting to criticism that the President had inadvertently sparked a scare by announcing the probable SARS case.

Critics had also noted that in other countries, only health officials or medical experts made such announcements.

Dayrit said it would have been worse if the President did not publicly disclose the case.

"That's the only way you can be fair to the public," he said, noting that the government had been accused of not being forthright on the issue of SARS.

"The worse thing that you can be accused of is to lie about the cases of SARS, a criticism that is now being made against China [where the outbreak started in November]. If we do that, we'll lose face before Filipinos and the world community," he added.

Among the countries most seriously affected by SARS are China (Guangdong province), Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore and Canada.

Dayrit said the DOH had gotten in touch with the people who were in contact with the patient in Metro Manila. He said none of them had come down with fever or developed other symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

"The only person he probably had close contact with was his wife, and she is asymptomatic" of SARS, Dayrit said, adding that the DOH was continuing to monitor the health conditions of those who were in contact with the patient.

Differences

Dayrit took pains to explain the differences among suspected, probable and confirmed SARS cases.

People who have fever and cough, have developed "respiratory distress" and have a history of travel to SARS-infected areas are suspected cases.

Those previously classified as suspected cases, may or may not have developed "respiratory difficulty," but whose chest X-rays showed "basal pneumonia" are probable cases.

Those previously classified as probable cases but whose blood specimens had been found positive for the coronavirus believed to cause SARS, or whose antibodies had been noted as putting up defenses against the coronavirus, are confirmed cases.

Dayrit said the German patient was classified as a probable SARS case because there was "no confirmation of any physiologic cases" on him, such as the coronavirus.

For now, Dayrit said, the public should not panic because the patient had been isolated. He said the patient has been free of fever and pneumonia symptoms for three days now.

He also said the patient—who has houses here and in Hong Kong—contracted the disease during an examination at a hospital in the former British colony.

Dayrit made the assurance that the DOH would further tighten the screening of people entering the country from SARS-infected areas.

He said "thermo-scans," or disposable thermometers, would be purchased to augment monitoring procedures.

Dayrit also noted that the German managed to get through screening because he was not yet showing SARS symptoms when he arrived.

At the same briefing, Dr. Remigio Olveda, director of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), said they were rushing work to put up facilities for an "experimental test kit" to detect the presence of the coronavirus in suspected SARS cases.

The kit, which performs the "polymerace chain reaction" or PCR to detect the virus, will be donated by Japan.

In the meantime, Olveda said, the RITM would send to Japan a blood specimen of the probable SARS case. He said the result would be known in three weeks.

No ban

At her teleconference in Malacañang, the President said she was not banning tourists from SARS-infected countries.

She said that with the screening performed at Philippine airports and in the countries of origin, there was hardly a chance that a SARS carrier would get through and infect others here.

"The policy really is there's no ban against tourists from SARS-infected areas," Ms Macapagal said. "The instructions I gave [airport officials] were very, very clear, and the chance [that a SARS carrier will get through] becomes almost nil."

Dayrit, who was on the other end of the phone line, informed the President that the Hong Kong government has asked those who had come in contact with SARS cases not to travel.

Airlines are also barring passengers showing the flu-like symptoms of SARS.

Dayrit said the screening process was being repeated at airports here.

"So the screening will be very tight," Ms Macapagal said, adding:

"So when you say, are we willing to take a chance [in letting in possible SARS carriers by admitting tourists], well, that's not taking a chance. That's really doing everything that is humanly possible to prevent SARS from coming in."

The President was asked about her statement Friday urging Filipinos from SARS-infected countries to postpone plans of coming home for the Holy Week if they felt they might be SARS carriers.

Asked how this statement would affect the government's campaign to boost tourism, Ms Macapagal said: "Did I say that?"

She went over her notes and, finding the copy of the statement, she read it aloud:

"We should avoid stigmatizing any nations or peoples, for no nation or people is at fault for this dreaded disease. Transnational cooperation, not division, is the key to the containment of this threat." *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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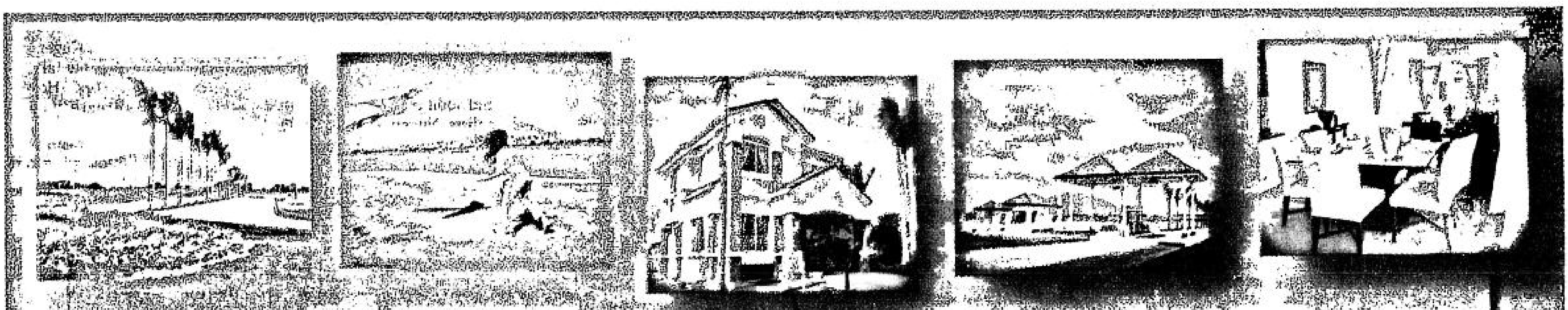

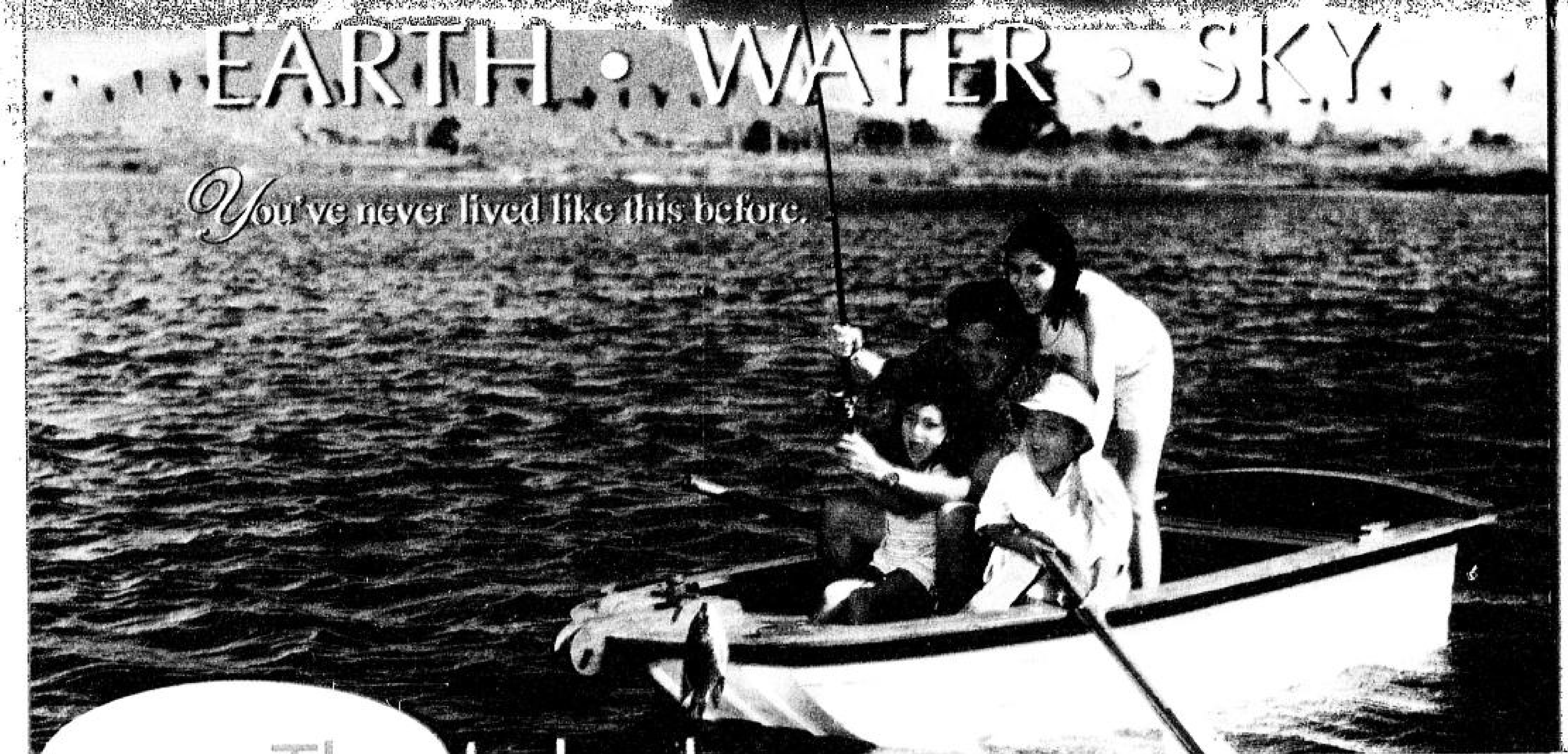

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OIL-RICH Kirkuk in northern Iraq is now under the control of the US-led coalition and a Kurdish girl displays where her sentiments lie. GETTY IMAGES

Consoler-in-chief ...

From page A1

symbolic echo of the regime's collapse.

In a voice often quaking with emotion, he recalled "the jubilation on the faces of ordinary Iraqis as they realized that the grip of fear that had them by the throat had been released, the first signs of freedom." "I don't know the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein. I don't know if he's dead or alive. I do know he's no longer in power," he said, with First Lady Laura Bush at his side after visits to the two military hospitals.

When commanders say so

"This war will end when our commanders on the field tell me that the objective has been achieved," said Bush, who specifically cited Army General Tommy Franks, who has run the US-led campaign to disarm and topple Saddam.

"I'm here in Washington, DC. He's there in Qatar, and he's got commanders in Baghdad. He's better to judge whether we've achieved the objective than I have," said the US leader.

He also had tough words of warning for officials in Damascus to shut their borders to fleeing followers of Saddam or any of his relatives and turn over any who have already found "safe haven" in Syria.

"We expect them to do everything they can to prevent people who should be held to account from escaping in their country," he said. "And if they are in their country, we expect the Syrian authorities to turn them over." US officials say that Damascus has assured Washington that it has closed its border to all but humanitarian traffic, but Bush aides say US military and intelligence agencies are monitoring that frontier to be sure.

Bush indicated he did not know the fate of US troops taken as prisoners of war (POWs) by Iraq, but vowed to "use every resource we have to find any POWs that are alive, and we pray that they are alive, because if they are we'll find them."

Bush did not meet with Jessica Lynch, the 19-year-old US prisoner of war dramatically rescued earlier this month, because she has yet to be transferred from Germany to Walter Reed, officials said.

Bush, who has met with injured veterans of the campaign to topple the Taliban in Afghanistan, tries to cheer the soldiers he sent into harm's way as well as any family members present, a top White House aide said earlier.

"It's difficult, but he knows how necessary it is," said the official, who requested anonymity. "He really tries to be the consoler-in-chief."

Last important city

In Iraq, US planes on Saturday pounded Iraqi troop positions in the last important town still to fall in the 24-day-old war—Saddam Hussein's home base of Tikrit 145 km northwest of the capital.

But US commanders indicated their final military challenge might be easier than expected, thanks to mass desertions and relentless bombing.

A US convoy also entered the northern city of Mosul, Iraq's third largest, in the first major deployment there since Saddam's forces surrendered without a fight on Friday.

American soldiers likewise tightened their grip on the oil hub of Kirkuk. Both cities fell with the help of Kurdish fighters.

US and British forces were still focused on erasing military threats instead of curbing looting and lawlessness.

In a western part of Baghdad, US soldiers backed by tanks overran a stronghold where Iraqi militiamen and foreign volunteers from across the Arab world had been holding out the past three days.

Also in the Iraqi capital, US Marines showed reporters a cache of about 50 explosives-laden suicide bomb vests in an elementary school less than six meters from the nearest home.

At a nearby junior high school, seven classrooms were filled with hundreds of crates of grenade launchers, surface-to-air missiles and ammunition. Residents said Iraqi soldiers and militiamen had positioned weaponry throughout the neighborhood before US forces moved in.

Searching for weapons and pro-Saddam holdouts has been the primary task of American troops in Baghdad. But US officials, criticized for doing too little to curtail the looting that has spread to new areas, say the restoration of law and order will become a higher priority.

The US state department said it was sending 26 police and judicial officers to Iraq, the first component of a team that would eventually number about 1,200. The officers will be part of a group led by Jay Garner, the retired general chosen by the Bush administration to initially run Iraqi civil administration under American occupation.

Much of the looting in Baghdad and other cities has targeted government ministries and the homes of former regime leaders, but looters also have ransacked foreign embassies, stolen ambulances from hospitals and robbed some private businesses.

US forces on Saturday reopened two strategic bridges in the heart of Baghdad—enabling looters to pillage new territory. US forces watched but did not intervene as plunderers swarmed into several government buildings, including the planning ministry on the west bank of the Tigris River, and emerged with bookshelves, sofas and computers.

Aid organizations, as well as many Baghdad residents, have pleaded with US officials to crack down on the looting. "The humanitarian situation is worsening as a consequence of widespread lawlessness," said InterAction, a Washington-based coalition of more than 160 US aid groups.

Iraq-based relief workers with CARE also reported that hospitals were "in absolutely dire straits," with some looted and others closed to prevent looting.

Abbas Reta, 51, a Baghdad engineer with five children, was distraught at the looting of schools and hospitals.

"If one of my family is injured where will I take them now? When the schools reopen, my children will have no desks to sit on," he said. "The Americans are responsible. One round from their guns and all the looting would have stopped."

In another Baghdad neighborhood, residents complained that US soldiers thus far have not heeded requests to clear cluster bombs dropped during the war. The residents said three people had been killed and one injured trying to pick up the unexploded ordnance.

Looting diminished Saturday in the northern city of Mosul, a day after pro-Saddam defense forces dissolved and US special forces moved in. The special forces were joined Saturday by a two-dozen-vehicle Army convoy that was greeted by thousands of cheering Iraqis.

Pentagon officials have specific concerns about one aspect of the looting—that vandalism of government offices could destroy evidence related to weapons of mass destruction.

Finding chemical and biological weapons manufactured by Saddam's regime is a top priority for the US-led forces. Troops are seeking documents and Iraqi weapons experts in hopes of getting leads on where banned materials might be. *Reports by AFP and Reuters*

Still a mystery

SADDAM'S fate remained a mystery.

Citing communications overheard from Iraqis on the edge of Saddam's ousted government, one US official told Reuters: "I'd say it's leaning slightly more to dead than alive." But the officials said the "chatter" did not add up to conclusive proof.

While visiting US servicemen wounded in the war that he launched on March 20 and giving out medals to them, President George W. Bush said: "I don't know if (Saddam) is dead or alive. I do know he is no longer in power."

Iraq's UN ambassador, Mohammed Aldouri, the first Iraqi official to concede the fall of Saddam's regime, left the United States for Syria, saying he did not want to represent his country while it was under US-British occupation.

"When this occupation ends ... I will be the first to enter my country as a free country," Aldouri said.

The US-led coalition is training its guns on Saddam's hometown, Tikrit, where some Iraqi forces are believed to be regrouping. However, US Central Command officials said many of the troops there had fled in the face of heavy air strikes and that the remnants might not be able to muster an effective defense.

Tikrit has long been a power center for Iraq's Sunni Muslim tribes, who may plan to resist as long as possible out of fear of losing power to the Shiite Muslim majority. Saddam drew many members of his inner circle from Tikrit, and built several fortified palaces and military installations there.

AT A GLANCE

- The US-led coalition turned its focus to Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, where fighters are believed to be regrouping for a last stand. But after being battered by intensive bombing, the city may fall without much of a fight, US commanders said.
- US Marines found nearly 50 suicide bomb vests packed with explosives in a school in central Baghdad. In a nearby school, they found crates filled with rocket propelled grenade launchers, surface-to-air missiles, shoulder launched rockets and ammunition.
- US forces reopened two strategic bridges in the heart of Baghdad, opening it to looters, who swarmed into the planning ministry and other government buildings and emerged with bookshelves, sofas and computers. Aid organizations and many Baghdad residents have pleaded with US officials to crack down on the looting.
- Also looted was the Iraq National Museum which contained priceless artifacts dating back more than 5,000 BC. Reporters visiting it found empty glass cases, many of them smashed, and bits of broken pottery and sculpture.
- Residents in a Baghdad neighborhood complained that US soldiers hadn't cleared cluster bombs dropped during the war. The residents said three people were killed and one injured trying to pick them up.
- The state department is sending 26 police and judicial officers to Iraq as part of what eventually is expected to be a team of nearly 1,200 to help restore order.
- US President George W. Bush, declining to declare victory, said that he didn't know whether Saddam Hussein was dead or alive. But "I know he's no longer in power," he said.

AP

TOO POPULAR

Al-Sahhaf show crashes on the Net

By Anick Jesdanun
AP Internet Writer

MOHAMMED Saeed al-Sahaf
AFP

A WEB site that pokes fun at Saddam Hussein's minister of information became such a global hit that its operators had to temporarily pull the plug Friday as they scrambled for more powerful computers.

To help pay for the upgrades, the site will sell T-shirts, mugs and barbecue aprons featuring choice quotes from Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, who maintained with a straight face that Iraqi troops were routing the Americans even as US tanks busted through Baghdad.

The site, WeLoveTheIraqiInformationMinister.com, features quotes as well as obviously doctored photos showing al-Sahhaf boasting of the Confederacy's successes during the Civil War and Darth Vader's victories in the "Star Wars" movies.

"My feelings—as usual—we will slaughter them all," reads one quote from al-Sahhaf from two days before Baghdad fell.

Until he disappeared Tuesday, al-Sahhaf was the colorful face of Saddam's regime. Some Arabs, getting a kick out of how al-Sahhaf ridicules President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair even called his daily news conferences the "al-Sahhaf show."

In the United States, Conn Nugent and his friends got a kick out of the comments too, and decided to create the Web site Tuesday.

The site, Nugent said, was meant as a private joke.

"We didn't advertise it at all," he said. "We just sent it to our friends."

Within hours, someone at the Pentagon got wind of it, and soon word spread to journalists, Nugent said. By Friday, many Web journals, called blogs, referred to the site. Internet users also circulated e-mail telling friends to check it out.

Nugent said the group's contract with its Web host called for a limit of 2,000 hits a month—but the site was getting 4,000 per second, putting other businesses sharing that host in jeopardy. The group looked for more powerful servers and decided to shut down after crashing four.

It's not the first time a site got too popular.

One blog, "Live From the Sandbox," had to switch servers and domain names soon after the war began. Another, ostensibly written from Baghdad, was upgraded for free by its hosts.

In this case, Nugent and his pals will essentially be paying for their successes in Internet spontaneity. Technicians were working Friday to find—and pay for—a Web hosting computer powerful enough to handle the worldwide traffic.

"It's worth it," said Nugent, who runs an environmentalist foundation in New York. "How else are we going to have fun in this world?"

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Shaky start by Tiger

Late birdies propel Weir to Masters lead

AUGUSTA—Tiger Woods finally ended his birdie drought after 22 holes and began to challenge at the US Masters on Friday as Mike Weir overhauled Darren Clarke with two late birdies for a two-shot lead in the second round.

Northern Irishman Clarke had upstaged his rivals with a superb six-under-par 66 in the delayed first round but was overtaken by Canadian Weir at six under overall after 12 holes before play was called off for the day in the gathering gloom.

Defending champion Woods, who had earlier carded a dismal opening 76 at Augusta National, ended up eight strokes off the pace after 10 holes, having mixed three birdies with a solitary bogey at the par-four 18th.

Clarke, three ahead after round one, struggled to maintain his impressive form during a sunny afternoon. Three birdies were shaded by five dropped shots in 10 holes as he surrendered the outright lead to the fast-finishing Weir.

Left-handed Weir, twice a winner on the PGA Tour this season, had reeled off three birdies in a row from the par-five 13th and then eased past Clarke at the top of the leaderboard with birdies at the 575-yard second and par-four third.

"I would have loved to have finished my round," Weir told reporters. "I was in a nice flow in my game early on and was hitting my targets."

A further two strokes back, at two under after 11 holes, was Phil Mickelson, boosted by a three-birdie surge from the third, while US amateur champion Ricky Barnes was in fourth place at one under after 10.

Scotland's 1999 British Open champion Paul Lawrie, after 13 holes, 2001 US PGA champion David Toms and twice major winner Vijay Singh, both after 11, and American Brad Faxon, after 17, were locked at even par.

Green jacket

Woods, bidding for an unprecedented third consecutive Green Jacket at Augusta National, made his breakthrough birdie at the par-five 13th.

He picked up another shot at the 440-yard 14th, where he hit his approach to just four feet, and then birdied the par-three 16th to close, briefly, to within six shots of the lead before Clarke returned to six under.

"I'm right where I need to be, and I have a chance in the tournament," said the world number one, after his bogey at the 18th left him at two over par.

"You don't have to play a great second round to get back in it. On this golf course you can't push it." Although the sun finally broke through at a sodden Augusta National for the first time in almost a week, there was no chance of the entire 93-man field completing 36 holes in the day, as had been initially hoped by the organisers.

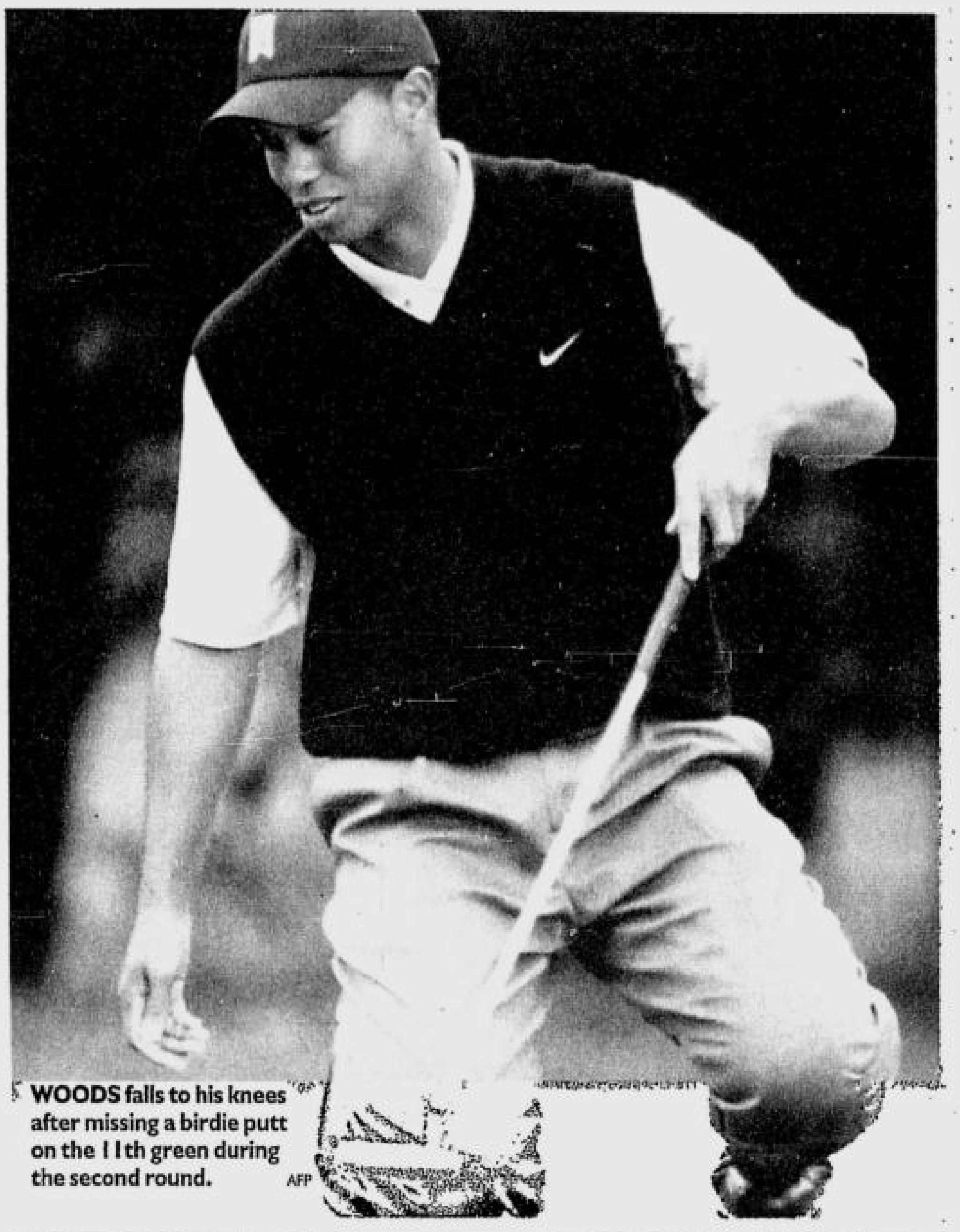
Rounds were taking up to six hours and only 18 players managed to complete, Jeff Maggert carding a 73 to finish at one-over 145 and hold the clubhouse lead with Zimbabwe's Nick Price, who followed his opening 70 with a 75.

First-round play was washed out on Thursday for the first time in 64 years at the Masters and Augusta officials opted for a two-tee start for the opening two rounds in a bid to get the weather-battered tournament back on schedule by Saturday.

Ulsterman Clarke, who began round one at the 10th, got off to a mixed start, an opening birdie followed by a bogey five at the 490-yard 11th.

But the 34-year-old, whose best Masters finish was a tie for eighth in 1998, then birdied 12 and 13 before eagling the 500-yard 15th with a 25-foot putt to move to the top of the first-round leader board at four under.

Clarke was twice caught by Sergio Garcia, who birdied four of his first seven holes. *Reuters*


WOODS falls to his knees after missing a birdie putt on the 11th green during the second round. AFP

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A surveillance was then conducted by the IPR - Division of the National Bureau of Investigation to ascertain the veracity of the complaint for infringement.

On March 17, 2003, the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 83 **issued Search Warrant No. 4044 (03) against DADODETT ENTERPRISE** and/or HERMES SPORTS CENTER and/or the manager and occupants/employees of 229 Roosevelt Ave., Quezon City, **commanding** the IPR - Division of the National Bureau of Investigation **"to make an immediate search at any time of the DAY of the premises above-described and forthwith seize and take possesion of the above-enumerated articles, materials and finished products subject of the offense and to bring the same to this Court to be dealt with as the law directs."** On the same date, the IPR - Division of the National Bureau of Investigation proceeded to the subject establishment and served the SEARCH WARRANT. The NBI seized and confiscated items infringing upon the above-mentioned copyrighted products of MANLY SPORTSWEAR MANUFACTURING, INC.

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Elbow Support
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Sport Brief
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Maternity Belt
Hand Immobilizer Splint
Lifter's Belt

Thunder vs Kings today

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
4:00 p.m.—Red Bull vs Ginebra
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

COACH Yeng Guiao is running short of ideas on how to motivate the Batang Red Bull Thunder.

His worry will further be compounded if the Thunder beat the struggling Barangay Ginebra Kings today in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

"If we win, we would have beaten all the teams. That's a good motivational point of view. But after that, I have to think of another approach to motivate the team," said Guiao, whose Thunder are on an eight-game roll.

A victory for the Thunder (8-1) will extend their win streak to eight games, the longest ever for the Photokina Marketing franchise since joining the league in 2000.

On a tailspin, the Kings have lost six of their nine games and another defeat will put them almost within reach of the Shell Turbochargers, who at 2-8, are the cellar-dwellers in Group B.

In the other game, Alaska (7-3) hopes to stretch its winning record when it meets Purefoods (4-6), whose own three-game run got snapped Friday night by the Turbochargers.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola broke a four-game slide with a 79-78 win over Talk N Text in San Fernando, Pampanga last night. The Tigers climbed to 5-4 while sending the Phone Pals to their fifth setback in nine games.

Pacquiao defense at Ninoy stadium

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANNY Pacquiao's fourth title defense will be held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium with ticket prices reaching as high as P10,000.

Promoter Bebot Elorde made this announcement yesterday as he declared that challenger Antonio "Colossus" Cermeno of Venezuela is set to sign the fight contract tomorrow in the United States.

Pacquiao will stake his International Boxing Federation super-bantamweight crown against Cermeno on June 28.

Elorde said Filipino-American agent Leon Panoncillo of Hawaii assured him that Cermeno will sign the contract that would earn him $40,000.

In fact, Cermeno even turned down an offer to fight former IBF junior lightweight champ Diego Corrales supposedly set for April 24 at the Grand Casino Event Center in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Cermeno, 34, holds a 41-4 win-loss record with 27 knockouts.

Pacquiao's business manager Rod Nazario had also refused an offer for Pacquiao to fight WBC Continental Americas super bantamweight titlist Emmanuel "Carnecerio" Lucero.

The Lucero fight, dangled by Pacquiao's New Jersey-based promoter Murad Muhammad, would have paid the Filipino champ $200,000. It was also planned to be held at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 7.

Elorde said security would be a problem if the fight is held at an open venue like the Rizal Park.

He added that general patronage tickets will be sold for P200.

"This is a world-class championship so we better make it happen in a safer and more convenient venue for the fans and supporters," said Elorde.

Cermeno, a former World Boxing Association super-bantam and featherweight ruler, is the replacement opponent after American Tim Austin when the "Cincinnati Kid" asked for a 150 percent increase of the original $50,000 offer. *With reports from Rey Danseco*

John O stops Hapee

GAMES TODAY
(San Juan Gym)
2 p.m.—Blu Star vs Viva
4 p.m.—LBC vs Welcoat

By Dennis U. Eroa

JOHN O's two-guard combination worked wonders as the Senators halted Hapee Toothpaste in overtime, 71-68, last night in the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup at the San Juan Gym.

Dennis Madrid, named to the national men's basketball pool and Celino Cruz kept John O's offense in perfect motion against the Sparklers who absorbed their first loss in six games.

John O, which improved to 4-1, forced the extension with a Mark Macapagal layup, 60-60, and then engaged Hapee into a tight battle in the extension.

In the first game, Gary David struck hardest as Montaña tripped ICTSI-Archers, 60-56. Nicknamed King David for his scoring prowess, the 6-foot-3 Bataan native, scattered 19 points, including a booming triple which halted the Archers' comeback in the dying minutes of play.

Mark Cardona sank a jumper and then fed Manny Ramos for an easy layup as ICTSI threatened, 55-56, two minutes left.

Scores:

MONTAÑA 60— David 19, Magsumbol 10, Allad 8, Basco 7, Robinson 7, Mendoza 6, Guererro 2, Salvador 1, Sayon 0, Coronel 0, Saniel 0.

ICTSI 56—Ferrer 18, Ramos 15, Cardona 10, Dacia 9, Jose 2, Thoss 2, Aldeguer 0, De Jesus 0, Uy 0, Magsumbol 0, Villanueva 0.

Quarterscores:14-7, 31-25, 48-41, 60-56

Dandan 18-under champ

TOP seed Kyle Dandan proved too much for second seed Chat Contra, 6-2, 6-1, yesterday to pocket the boys' 18-under title in the 2003 Head Penn Tennis Tour at the Nota courts in Bacolod City.

Meanwhile, unranked Gerard Bergavera snared the boys' 16-under title over No. 2 Sing dela Torre, 6-4, 6-3. Bergavera took the 14-under title over Ian Filoteo, 6-4, 6-2.

Genesis Pavillar outlasted Elpher Lachica, 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-3, to capture the boys' 12-under title and annexed the unisex 10-under crown following a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Ralph Evan Pilares.

In the girls division, No. 1 Melody Barraquias clobbered No. 2 Lenlen Rodriguez, 6-0, 6-1, to win the 18-under title. Barraquias also bagged the 16-under over the same opponent, 6-1, 6-0.

SPORTSWATCH

Serena vs Lindsay

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Serena Williams overcame a slow start to stay perfect this season, moving to 20-0 with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Jelena Dokic at the Family Circle Cup on Friday night. Williams, the world's top-ranked player, takes on former No. 1 Lindsay Davenport in Saturday's semifinals. Davenport defeated Vera Zvonareva 7-6 (3), 6-3. Justine Henin-Hardenne eliminated 2000 champion Mary Pierce 6-2, 6-3, and 17-year-old Ashley Harkleroad defeated Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 6-1. *AP*

Scooter races up

THE SHELL Advance Scooter Series celebrates its sixth season beginning today (April 13) with the staging of the kickoff leg at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite. Launched in 1998 by the E.L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Pilipinas Shell, the annual series has turned out to be the biggest and most prestigious scooter competition in the country with riders from all over the country taking part in the different race categories. Last year's "Rider of the Year" awardee Ivan Santiago of Skygo-Access Plus-Malossi Racing Team heads the list of participants vying in the expert open category, centerpiece event of the sever.-part series.

Rallycross series

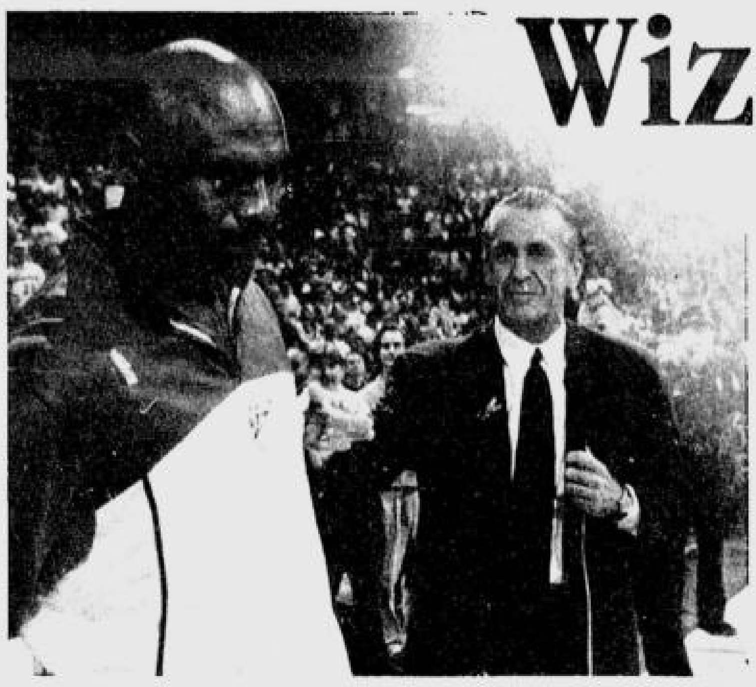
THE STAGE is all set for the second leg of the Ultron Rallycross Series which unfolds today at the CCP Complex in Pasay City. Over 40 entries are expected to compete in various categories. Cash prizes and trophies are at stake in this event organized by Activity Asia Association and sponsored by Petron Ultron, Petron Blaze and Diesel Max. All eyes are on the rivalry between Ivan Isada of Team Ultron, Petron Blaze and Diesel Max. Today's races are held in cooperation with motorista.com.ph, Gadgets Magazine, Autoextreme, Roadwise Motoring School and sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

'Fistorama' on 9

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features a 10-round flyweight bout for its main event between Franklin Macalibo and Edgar Rodrigo at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig, Metro Manila. The popular weekly boxing show is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. The show is aired every Sunday noon on RPN 9 and is brought to you by Samsung Electronics Phils., Corp.

Mark leads rapid chess

INTERNATIONAL Master Mark Paragua notched his second straight win yesterday to grab the lead in the third round of the 2003 Shell National Open Rapid Chess Championship Multi-Purpose Hall, Department of Interior and Local Government, A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City. Paragua beat IM Jayson Gonzales to raise his total to 2.5 points and tow 2-pointers GM Joey Antonio, IM Petronio Roca and NM Rolly Martinez in the two-part tournament sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and supported by DILG. Roca, a two-time Olympian, handed NM Ronald Perez his third straight defeat while Bancod, College of St. Benilde chess coach, trounced IM Nelson Mariano II to recover from his second round loss to Martinez.Bancod improved to 1.5 in the company of GMs Eugene Torre and Bong Villamayor and two others. *Roy Luarca*



MIAMI Heat coach Pat Riley (right), announces the retirement of Michael Jordan's No. 23 jersey, before the Heat's game against the Washington Wizards on Friday. The jersey–half red for the Chicago Bulls and half blue for the Washington Wizards–was hung from the rafters, and Riley said no Heat player will wear the number again. AP

Wizards eliminated

MIAMI—Michael Jordan scored 25 points to guide Washington to a 91-87 win over the Miami Heat Friday, but it was not enough to prevent the Wizards being eliminated from the NBA playoffs.

Milwaukee's 105-103 victory over the Raptors in Toronto clinched the final playoff spot for the Bucks, leaving Jordan with just three games left in his glorious career.

Jordan retained his all-time scoring lead against Miami with his 25 points. His per-game average is 30.2 compared to Wilt Chamberlin's 30.1.

The Heat also honored Jordan in pre-game ceremonies by retiring his number 23. No Heat player will ever wear that jersey again.

Christian Laettner added 13 points for the Wizards while Kwame Brown had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Caron Butler led Miami with 19 points.

In Toronto, Toni Kukoc picked up 25 points as the Milwaukee Bucks clinched a playoff berth with a 105-103 win over the Raptors.

Gary Payton added 24 points for the Bucks while Tim Thomas had 17. Desmond Mason had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Jerome Williams recorded 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors while Rafer Alston added 20 points.

In Atlanta, Dion Glover scored 23 points and Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 17 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Hawks past the Cleveland Cavaliers 109-89.

Theo Ratliff added 17 points while Jason Terry had 16.

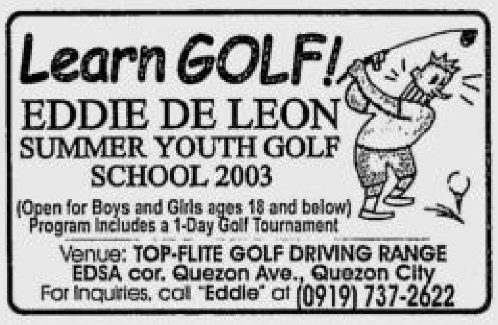
Tierre Brown had 15 points for the Cavaliers while Ricky Davis and Jumaine Jones collected 13.

Complete results: Atlanta 109, Cleveland 89; Minnesota 106, LA Clippers 90; Washington 91, Miami 87; New York 108, Philadelphia 103; Milwaukee 105, Toronto 103; New Orleans 93, Detroit 89; Chicago 95, New Jersey 86; Orlando 98, Indiana 86; San Antonio 94, Seattle 86; Memphis 96, Portland 93; Utah 95, Dallas 92; Sacramento 105, Denver 103; Phoenix 117, Golden State 101

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

GOLF: The Golf Club 2003, 7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports
Kraft Nabisco Championship, 7 a.m. (r) and 1:30 p.m., ESPN
2003 US Masters, Day Three Preview, 3:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (r), Day Three, 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. (r), Day Three Highlights, 7 p.m., Star Sports, Day Three, 9 p.m. (r), Final Round, tomorrow at 1:30 a.m., RPN 9



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MYG stars get support

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday pledged to support the young athletes who stood out in the Manila Youth Games.

Atienza, who promised to shoulder all their training expenses for national-level competitions, is set to present the outstanding athletes aged 15 years old and younger tomorrow at the city hall. These athletes, aged 15 and below, are picked according to their performance in the 14 sports disciplines of the MYGames.

Ali Atienza said these outstanding athletes will be put into intensive training where they will compete against each other every three months.

University of Santo Tomas wrested the softball title after beating defending champion Adamson University, 7-0, at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

In juniors action, Jenny Pangilinan scored a run in the bottom of the sixth inning to help Villegas Elementary School clinch a 14-13 win over Laurel Elementary School in the finals.

Beata Elementary School whacked Salvador Elementary School, 16-4 to bag the Little League title.

Karyn Velez collected two gold medals in the girls 15-under badminton singles and doubles (with Janina Paredes), while Paolo Jay Dawal of District 6 bagged two golds in the boys 15-under singles and doubles with partner Adrian Pagsanjan.

San Lazaro Park races slated

ANOTHER weeklong schedule of racing will be held at the newly-opened San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite starting tomorrow.

The Manila Jockey Club Inc. announced that it's Holy Week racing program will run from Monday (April 14) through Wednesday (April 16). There will be no races on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, but they will resume on Saturday (April 19) and Sunday (April 20).

Nine races are lined up for tomorrow's card starting at 5:45 p.m.

Highlight of the five-day racing schedule is the running of the P1 million PCSO Grand Championship for 4-year-old gallopers on Sunday.

MJCI formally inaugurated its new Carmona racing complex last April 1st following the grant of an official racing permit by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) which conducted a series of extensive on-site inspections on the new racing facility since last year.

"The steady influx of new horses into our expansive stabling facilities is a clear indication of the increasing support of the industry's major players to our efforts to build a truly world-class racing facility," said MJCI President and Chief Executive Alfonso Reyno, Jr.

The SLLP boasts of a world-standard twin-oval track that is twice the size of the old San Lazaro Hippodrome in Tayuman.

It is located 36 kilometers south of Manila and is easily accessible by using either the Carmona or Southwoods exits.

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Coward coach

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT is a coward? Junius defines a coward as one who fawns upon those above him. It is also the coward that is insolent whenever he dares be so to those beneath him.

That is the gospel here today.

Because life is sports and sports is life, let's use cowardice in a basketball team.

Coward is the coach who bows to every whim and caprice of his boss, the owner of his team. He allows team discipline to vanish in a whiff if only to please the boss. The only thing final to him is the word of the boss. Because he toes the line all the time, the coward really knows nothing insofar as coaching is concerned. By being the ears, eyes and virtual mouthpiece of the boss, the coward hopes to keep his job longer than the rest in the organization.

He's mistaken-as all cowards are.

By trying his best to please his boss at all costs, the coach is merely digging his own grave faster than anyone else in the team. For, while most bosses appreciate fawners, they do it but only on a limited time. One mistake-perceived or not-and the coward is dropped like a hot potato.

How many coaches have thus far suffered that fate?

They think they are doing their job right but in reality, they are not. Cowards fall hardest because of the weight of their sins. But alas, as Shakespeare wrote, "cowards die many times before their deaths while the valiant never taste of death but once."

Actually, the valiant, like the coach with his dignity intact all his life, never ever dies. Jawo exemplified that when he retired abruptly as coach after his superiors made Allan Caidic Jawo's assistant at Ginebra without consulting Jawo about it.

Look, cowards are puppets masquerading as intellectuals. The truth is, there is nothing but air between their ears. And, although most bosses aren't really that bright, they know a fake when they see one. But because a coward coach has also mastered the art of fakery, he can fake death better than anyone else.

The coward is insolent to his underlings because that is his shield to his inadequacy at good coaching. By being so boldly rude to his players, the coach that is a first-class coward hopes to cover up for his lack of something good to say. He yells all the time, not tell his men about the soundness of this defense, that offense. Articulateness is Greek to him because he doesn't even know the meaning of that. He shouts at his men to impress the boss, not express sound thoughts because he is incapable of storing up knowledge in a brain that is as blank as the inside of a basketball.

So, who are the cowards among us?

Let's pray for their souls.

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Race 3--1. Concorde 2. Lord of the Ring 3. Cool Fashion
Race 4--1. Korek Ka Dyan 2. Hercules 3. Cable Car/Silver Dollar
Race 5--1. All Class 2. Virgin Blue 3. Mal Love
Race 6--1. Ouzo/Catwalk Pia 2. Mrs. Rainier 3. Buena Sera
Race 7--1. Real Tough 2. Slip Away/Rumba 3. Boogie Shoes
Race 8--1. High Octane/Reigns Supreme 2. Success Story 3. Diktador
Race 9--1. Speed Machine 2. Honor Code 3. Schwarzenegger
Race 10--1. Wind Star 2. Golden Tale 3. Scene Stealer
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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@Inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

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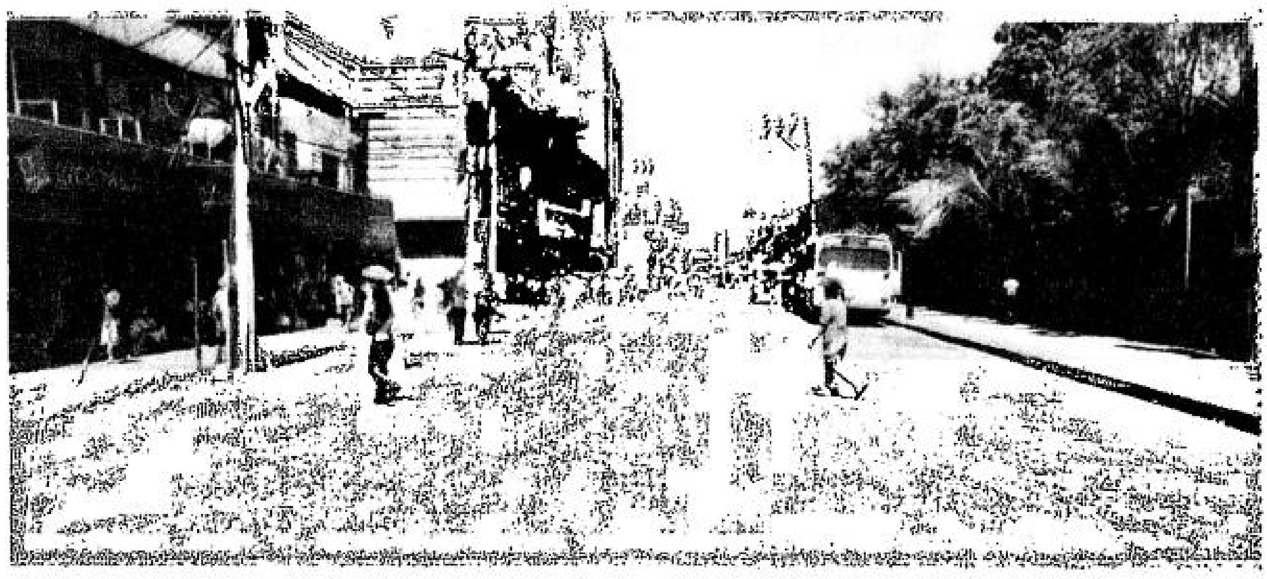
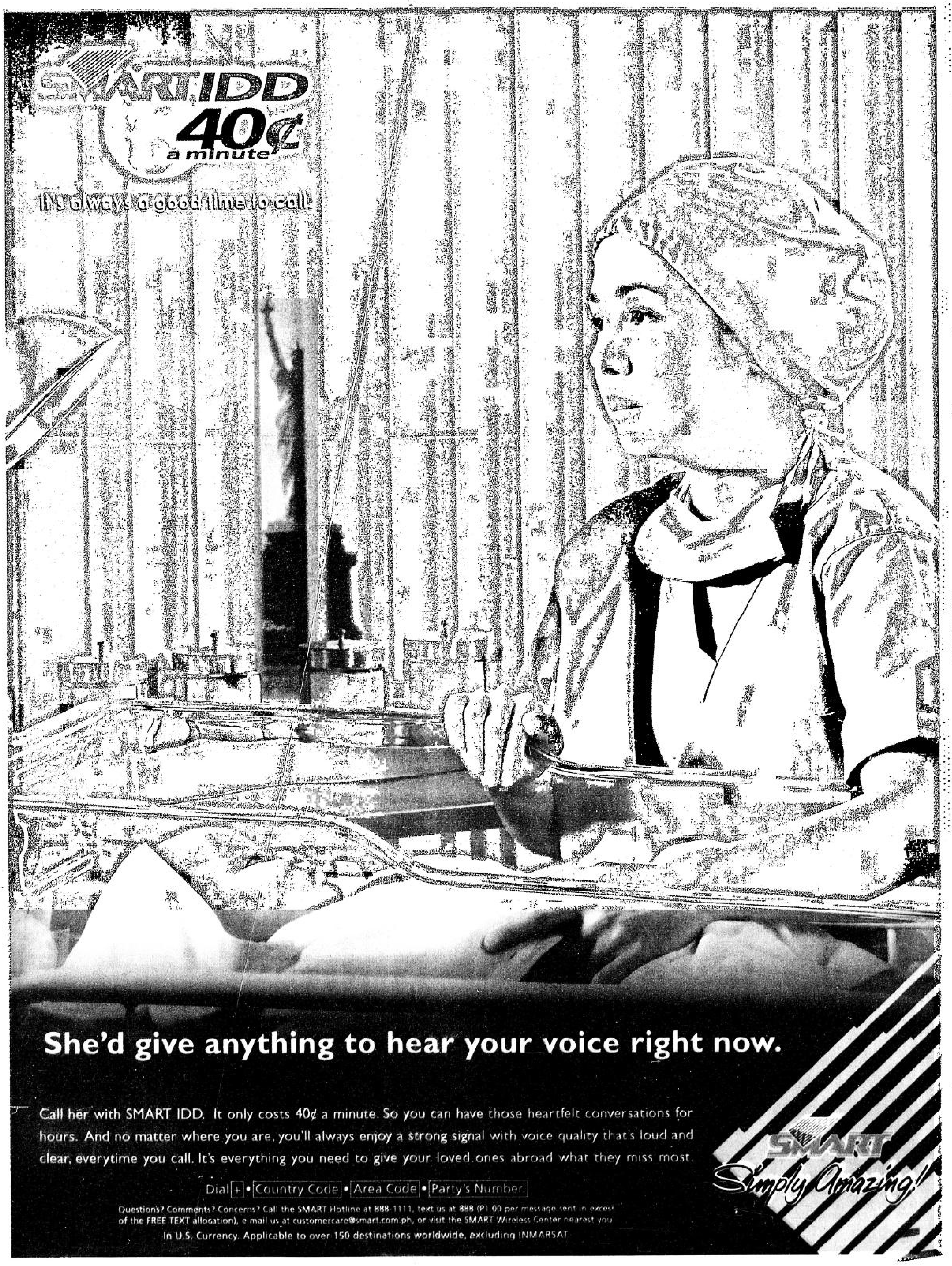
Redemptorist Road in Baclaran then...

Hey, is this Baclaran?

People who visit Redemptorist Road in Baclaran hoping to cash in on bargain sales from sidewalk vendors are in for a big surprise. **Story on Page 26**



...and now: The sidewalk vendors have reportedly agreed to move into a new shopping mall nearby



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Baclaran cleared of illegal vendors

By Christian Esguerra

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has struck a deal with illegal vendors in Baclaran, which could finally put an end to the chaos in the area.

In a dialogue with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando last week, vendors belonging to at least 20 organizations agreed to move to vacant spaces at a nearby building.

VENDOR-FREE road in Baclaran

The vendors had recently been ejected from the streets surrounding the Redemptorist Church in a series of sidewalk clearing operations which were intensified two weeks ago.

By this month, they will move to the Redemptorist Mall, a six-story, fully air-conditioned building that could accommodate about 1,000 stalls.

Fernando had convinced the building's owners to waive the rental fee until September, and keep the monthly lease afterward to only P25.

Vendors who could not be accommodated in the mall would be offered spaces in several other privately owned buildings, Fernando said.

"You should realize that the MMDA is here to pester you for illegally selling in the sidewalks," he told vendors. "That's why we've been looking for available spaces which you could occupy legally and for a very cheap price."

Even before vendors and mall owners could sign an accord, the agreement has already shown substantial results in Baclaran.

The Redemptorist area has become accessible to vehicles and pedestrians and free from litter since ambulant vendors were driven away.

A nagging problem for the MMDA is the presence of vendors clogging the area under the Light Rail Transit Station at the border of Parañaque and Pasay cities on Taft Avenue.

These vendors have long been toying with intermittent clearing operations organized by Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad and Mayor Joey Marquez of Parañaque.

In last week's meeting, Fernando vowed that no vendor would be allowed to occupy Baclaran's sidewalks to protect those who had moved to legitimate spaces from unhealthy competition.

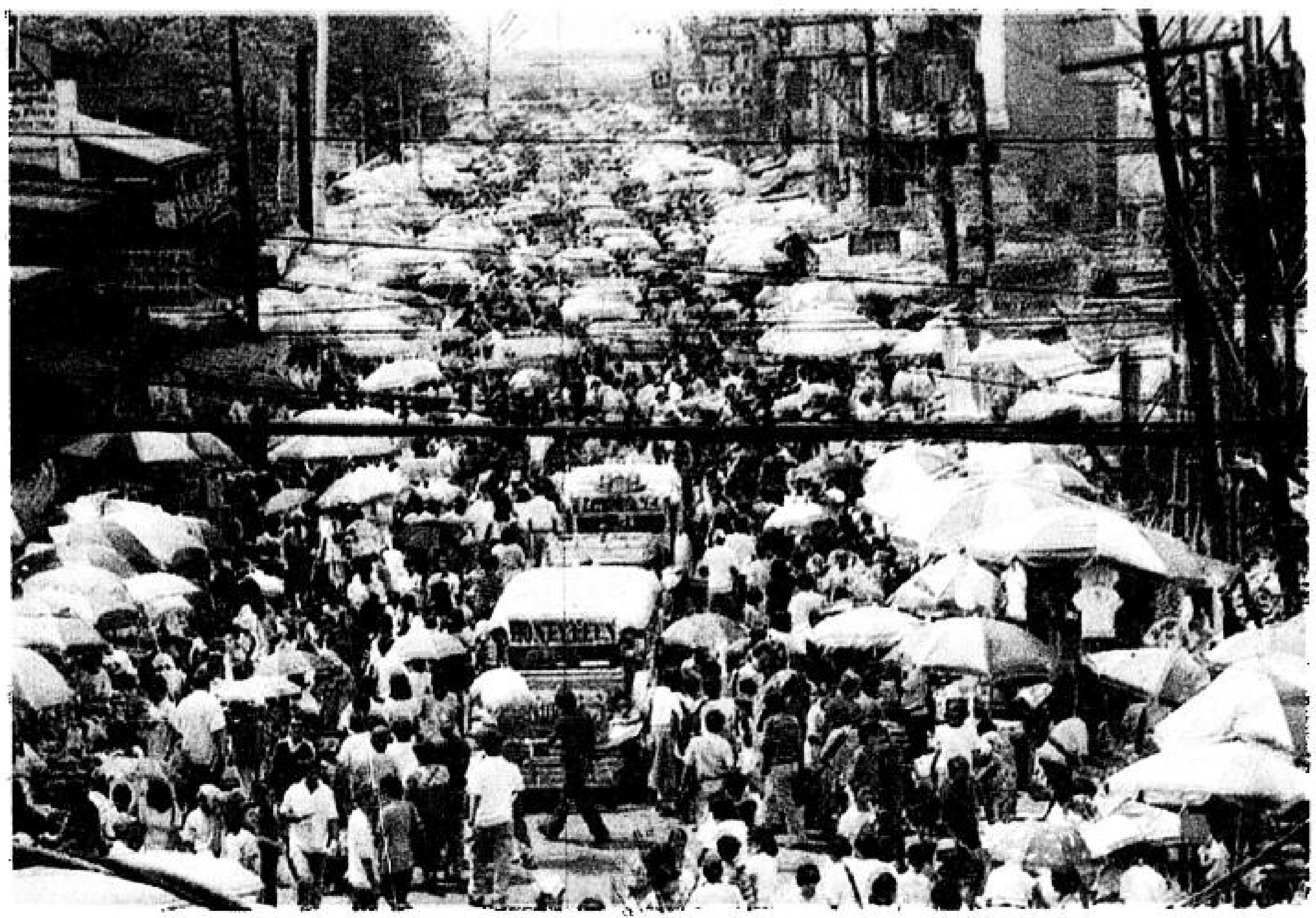
He also promised to advertise the new spaces during his television appearances and by putting up streamers in the area.

Vendors have agreed to form an alliance among at least 20 organizations representing hawkers on G.D. Cruz, J. Gabriel, Bayanihan and other key roads there.

Rico Antonio, president of G.D. Cruz vendors' association, said there are at least 10,000 vendors in Baclaran, excluding "snipers" or those who come from other cities.

Motorists had been critical of the MMDA's campaign to rid the area of illegal sidewalk vendors.

They had claimed that the campaign, began by Fernando late last year, was a "monumental failure."



CHAOS had reigned on the busy Redemptorist Road as vendors occupied every available space.

They also said that huge portions of the streets surrounding the Shrine of the Mother of Perpetual Help in Baclaran had been occupied by the vendors.

"These vendors know no rules," an irritated jeepney driver had said then."It's chaotic," he said. "They have no respect for the law. They should be jailed."

Traffic in the area was usually at a standstill due to the congestion on the streets.

Vendors selling just about any stuff—fake CDs, undergarments, cheap pants, cell phone accessories, and imitation appliances—had driven away motorists from the streets each day, another driver complained.

What's left of the once wide street around the Baclaran Church is a narrow, garbage-strewn driveway that can barely accommodate passenger jeepneys.

About three weeks ago, the MMDA intensified the campaign and forged an agreement with the vendors' associations.

Don't sleep on your jobs, cops ordered

By Tina Santos

THE NORTHERN Police District Office yesterday ordered its police force to shape up amid reports that some of them seem to be sleeping on their jobs.

Also, NPDO director Senior Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. claimed his men were not as quick as expected in gathering information on crimes in the area.

Franco has issued a memorandum to the chiefs of police in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela to submit to his office reports on crime incidents at least an hour after these are committed.

"It has been observed that significant activities and incidents are not being officially reported on time and worse, media people are obtaining information ahead of the command channels," Franco noted.

PALMS UP

DENNIS SABANGAN

Street vendors at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City spruce up the palm fronds or "palaspas," to be sold to churchgoers celebrating Palm Sunday today.

BF only too happy to wear two hats

By Leila Salaverria

SOME legislators may be questioning his dual posts, but for Bayani Fernando, the situation is working out well for the government, and also for him.

According to Fernando, heading both the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Public Works and Highways Department benefits the government projects because there is easier coordination between agencies with overlapping functions.

"It's working well," Fernando said of his appointments yesterday. "It's like shooting two birds with one shot."

Fernando also defended himself from allegations that it is unconstitutional for him to hold two positions.

"There's a provision in the law that says if the functions of two posts are allied, one person can hold both posts," he said.

He added that he is not receiving double compensation, and that it is the prerogative of the President if she wants him to head both the MMDA and the DPWH.

But while Fernando admits holding two posts can be tiring, there is one personal benefit that he likes.

"When I'm busy, I don't get to think of my fatigue and my psychosis disappears," he said with a laugh.

As for allegations that he is focusing too much on Metro Manila to the detriment of other regions, Fernando says this is not true.

"Whatever we do in Metro Manila, we also implement in other regions of the country," he said.

The sidewalk clearing operations is a prime example of a Metro Manila project that has gone nationwide, he added.

But he also said that he cannot help but focus on the metropolis because it has one of the highest populations and a lot of industries and companies that affect the economy.

Fernando said that his two posts are probably being questioned because it is an uncommon arrangement.

Store owners warned on police checks

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Police Commission yesterday warned store owners against a syndicate that uses fake Napolcom checks to pay for grocery items they buy.

Napolcom Chair Joey Lina has also ordered a crackdown on the suspects behind the circulation of the fake checks, which bear the forged signature of Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

Lina said the presence of the fake checks had been discovered by the Land Bank of the Philippines, with whom the Napolcom maintains an account.

Napolcom Financial Service chief Raquel Ramos said that a fake check amounting to P4,909.10 and payable to a certain P02 Melvin Santos Garcia was recovered from Manuel Magnate of Punta Roma, Negros Occidental, when he tried to use the spurious check to pay for goods bought at a local grocery store.

Investigation later showed that there was no P02 Melvin Garcia in the PNP's roster.

Ramos said that while the check bears the Napolcom seal and the commission's account number, the date of issue and the coverage of the payment is not the same as what is indicated in the genuine Napolcom checks.

Also, it does not carry the signature of two Napolcom officials, as it should.

Investigation showed that the syndicate behind the fake checks tend to victimize grocery store owners.

The suspects buy goods from a grocery store, while one of them line up behind customers and offer the check as payment for the groceries. The owner learns the check is fake when he deposits it in his bank account.

METROBRIEFS

Shot

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy shot and killed Ronald Allan Falier, 17, in Tondo, Manila, Friday afternoon. Police arrested the boy shortly after he shot Falier, a resident of Balut, Tondo. SPO4 Alfredo Salazar said they could not establish the motive because the suspect refused to speak to investigators. Witnesses told police that the victim and suspect were heard chatting inside Falier's residence. Neighbors reported hearing a gunshot at around 3 p.m. Barangay watchmen who responded to the incident saw Falier clutching his bleeding chest. He was taken to the Tondo Medical Center, but did not make it alive, police said. *Jerome Aning*

Robbed

YOU'D have thought that a military base is one of the safest places in Metro Manila. But Sgt. Asterio Caragay, 49, of Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, would not say so after he lost his service firearm to unidentified robbers who broke into his house between 2 to 3 a.m. yesterday. Police said that while the family slept, the suspects broke the windows and entered through the opening. Once inside, the burglars stole Caragay's .45-caliber pistol, two magazines, P35,000 in cash, P10,000 in jewelry and a red scooter worth P20,000. *Leila Salaverria*

Collared

DEXTER Tayao, a suspected snatcher, landed in jail yesterday after he tried to make off with the necklace of businessman Willy Palaria, in Quezon City. Palaria, 29, of Novaliches, was riding a jeepney when Tayao, 28, of Valenzuela City, and another man grabbed the victim's necklace along Quirino Avenue at around 1 a.m. The commotion caught the attention of patrolling barangay watchmen, who caught the suspect just as he was about to flee. Tayao is now detained at the Sangandaan Police Station. *Alcuin Papa*

Killed

JOFEL Perpuse was killed when unidentified men opened fire on the victim's group in Quezon City Friday night. Police said Perpuse's brother Jordan, 31, was also wounded in the shooting. He is now being treated at the FEU Hospital. Police said Perpuse, 37, was having a drink with his relatives at his house in Commonwealth, when the suspects appeared at the gate at around 6:30 p.m. and started shooting the victims. *Alcuin Papa*

Crushed

MAINTENANCE worker Joel Eferceto was hit by a speeding truck and was crushed to death in Quezon City on Friday. PO3 Edgardo Talacay said the victim was riding his bicycle on Commonwealth Avenue when a speeding Isuzu Elf truck, driven by Rolly Tandog, 25, of Barangay Sangandaan, hit Eferceto at around 10 a.m. Eferceto, of North Fairview, was thrown under the truck on impact and was crushed under its wheels. Tandog, realizing he had hit the victim, tried to bring Eferceto to the Fairview Hospital. But the victim was declared dead on arrival. Traffic enforcers took the suspect into custody. *Alcuin Papa*

Metro Manila police out in force for Holy Week

METRO Manila residents begin their observance of Lent by visiting holy shrines, such as Mount Calvary in Libid, Binangonan, Rizal. VAL HANDUMON

By Tina Santos and Jerome Aning

AS METRO Manila residents start to make a beeline for the provinces to observe the Holy Week, police forces in the metropolis have gone out in the streets to maintain order and prevent terrorist elements from striking at "vulnerable establishments" during the holiday.

Northern Police District Office Director Marcelino Franco Jr. yesterday assured residents of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (Camanava), that his men have strict orders to protect the Light Rail Transit stations, bus depots and shopping malls in northern Metro Manila.

"We're lucky because beaches, which are the usual destination of families during this season, are not within our area," Franco said. "Nonetheless, we'll be in full alert."

Franco said that they would also beef up security in bus terminals and churches.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics squad, together with their K-9 unit, will also be deployed in public areas.

Be vigilant

The NPDO chief likewise called on residents to be more vigilant, especially now that people are leaving the metropolis to observe the Holy Week in the provinces.

Noel Tumala, 35, a security guard at the Victory Bus Terminal in Monumento, Caloocan, said they would also install additional security measures to accommodate the increasing number of passengers bound for the provinces.

"We have been really meticulous, especially when it comes to inspecting our passengers' luggage," Tumala said. "We would double our efforts next week for the safety of the public. It's better that way than be sorry in the end."

Way of the Cross

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong to deploy patrol units and traffic enforcers around churches in the city to maintain order and ensure smooth traffic flow in the areas.

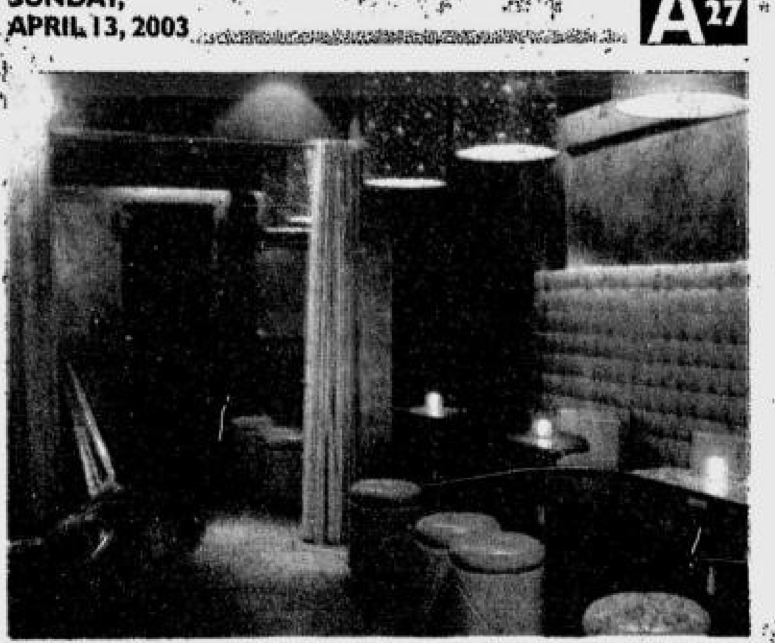
On Holy Thursday, many Catholics go on a pilgrimage to at least seven churches and observe the ritual of the Way of the Cross. This custom is called "Visita Iglesia."

The Catholic faithful are also expected to troop to Churches for the blessing of palm fronds today, the Chrism and Last Supper masses on Holy Thursday, the Service of the Cross on Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Black Saturday, and the "Salubungan" and Mass on Easter Sunday.

Many communities will also hold their own Way of the Cross processions, "Pabasa," or the reading of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, and the "senakulo," a dramatization of Christ's passion.

One *senakulo*, "Ang Martir sa Golgota," will be held in Manila's sixth district beginning next week.

Now on its 15th season, the play is sponsored by the Tanghalang Sta. Ana and the Mobile Theater Foundation (Manila) Inc.



FORMER BLACK BOX. Olive, formerly Orange, now has new, warm and comfortable interiors. VAL HANDUMON

From notorious 'Ecstasy Club,' Olive Bar reinvents itself

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE RECENT controversial incidents at Olive Bar (formerly Seven-Eight Orange) along Makati Avenue prompted the owners to come out and defend the newly renovated club.

What was once second home to a whole generation of clubbers and a place that has become part of every young urbanite's party map has turned into a dreaded venue. Parents even advise their teenage kids against going to Olive.

It was at Olive where actor **Robin da Roza** was hit in the face by a beer bottle by **Nikolai Dy**, said to be a nephew of former Isabela Gov. **Benjamin Dy**.

Comedian and Parañaque City Councilor **Anjo Yllana** was said to have beaten up his wife **Jackie Manzano** outside the premises of Olive.

During its Orange days, there were loud whispers about the allegedly drug-related arrest of the club's guest DJ.

The place also became notorious for the numerous brawls that happened in its premises as well as for its drinks reportedly laced with Ecstasy.

"It was actually a slush drink called Liquid Ecstasy, made of vodka and orange juice," explains **Rem Zamora**, one of the nine original owners of Olive. "But since it became controversial, we've removed it from our drink list."

While the owners are aware that there are indeed people who bring Ecstasy to the club, they said they have no control over that.

"We can't control people who bring it or take it," says **Jun Boy Leonor**, The Dawn member who is also part owner of the club. "Our bouncers caught people selling Ecstasy inside and we kicked these people out of the club and banned them for life. Some were even brought to the precinct."

During its days as Orange, the club hosted memorable parties and theme nights that caused traffic jams on Makati Avenue.

Among the celebrities known to frequent the club are **Troy** and **KC Montero, Mylene Dizon** and boyfriend **Ira Cruz**, VJ **Joey Mead, Jaya, JM Rodriguez, Pinky Amador, Luis Manzano** and **Eppy Quizon**.

"We've always been dragged down by controversies," Leonor says.

"We didn't do anything about the negative publicity but it got worse," says Zamora. "They should understand that we had nothing to do with the personal lives of the people who come to us."

The club opened as Seven-Eight Orange in 1999 on the former site of Pilo Restaurant along Makati Avenue. The other original partners are **Nicky Jurado, Gamby Lichauco, Anthony Kierulf, Critter Sarmiento, Paolo del Rosario, Caloy Santos** and **Robert Villaluz**.

"We didn't want a club in a mall or beside another bar because of competition," Leonor says. "The hidden charm of Orange is that it was out of the way."

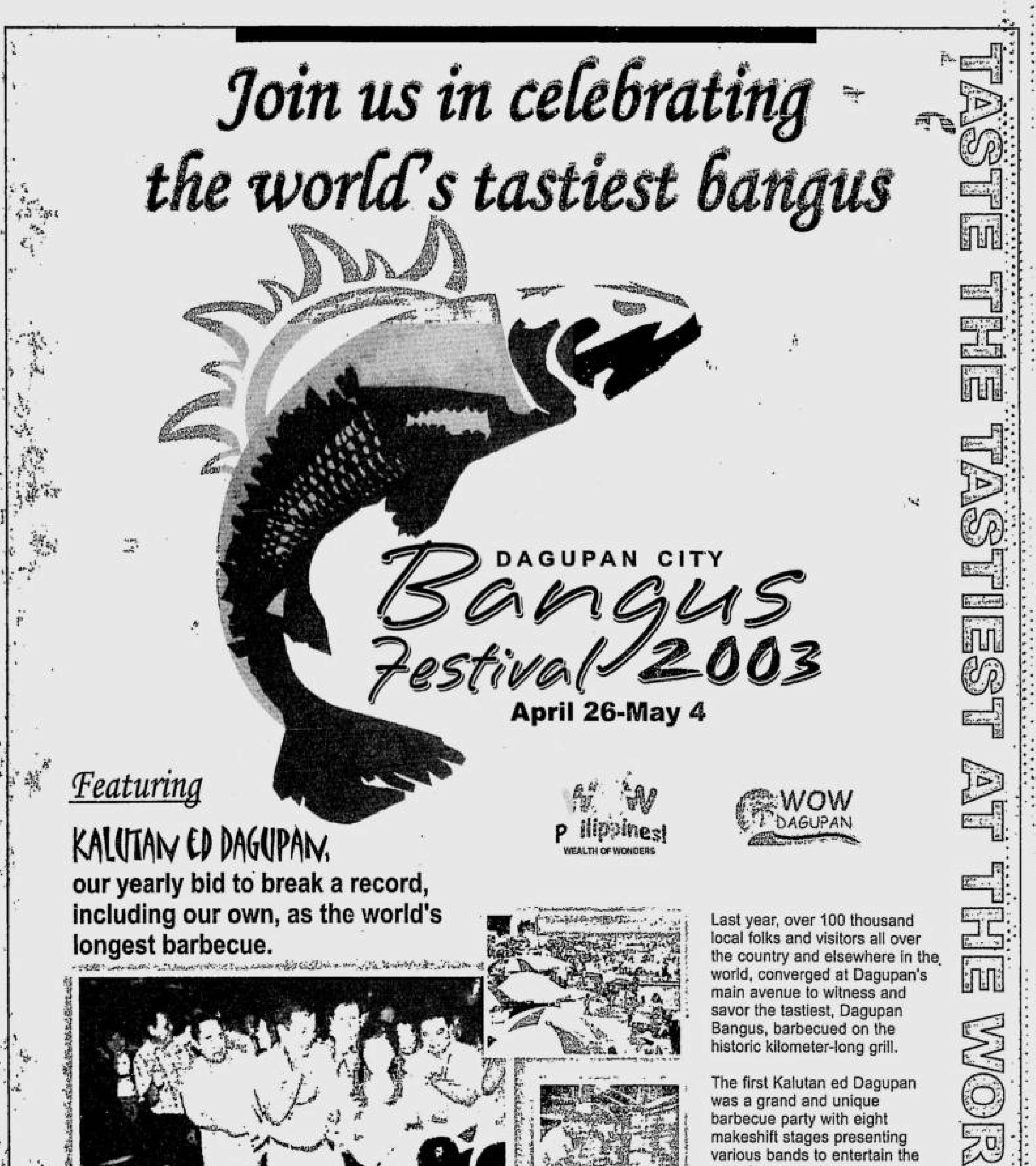
The name Seven-Eight Orange came from the address of the building (7840 Makati Avenue).

"We just unanimously chose a color to add to the name," Zamora shares. "To our surprise, the club became so successful even without any advertising or PR, just word of mouth."

Last October, however, Orange closed its doors after a huge party night, to make way for a two-month renovation.

Leonor's cousin **Junie Rodriguez** transformed the dark and dingy Orange interiors into a cozy bar and club. He worked on a tight budget and for only 23

FROM NOTORIOUS/ A30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- Celebrity Storytelling featuring Marc Logan (April 6), Aiko Melendez (April 26), Anjo Yllana (April 27), and other popular personalities every weekend until June 1
- Competition - April 20, 27, May 4 and 11, 4:00-6:00 pm
- Darna's 50th Anniversary Celebration - May 4, Sunday (Concert featuring original Darna songs composed by Sugarfree, Dirty Kitchen, Narda and more; Official release of Darna Comics Issue #2); Darna collectibles on sale the whole month of May; — See Darna & Valentina in the flesh every weekend of May

SCORCHIN' CONCERTS
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- Parliament Syndicate - April 12, Saturday, 6:30-8:00 pm
- MPower - April 19, Saturday, 6:30-8:00 pm
- Prime Council with Aliyah Parcs - April 26, Saturday, 5:30-7:00 pm
- Magic 89.9 Concert featuring Acafellas - May 3, Saturday, 5:30-7:00 pm

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Simply Amazing!

From notorious 'Ecstasy Club,' Olive Bar reinvents itself

From page A27

days. It was also Rodriguez who gave the club its new name, Olive, and took inspiration from there to work on the interiors.

"It used to be just a huge black box, but we decided to change the name, the look and even the format," Zamora says.

"The new interiors are warm and comfortable, with brighter lights and splashes of earth colors from the seats to the walls," Zamora adds. "There are more seating areas and a better sound system."

Last December, Orange reopened as Olive, with nine new "silent partners" that include **Boompy Martel**, making a total of 18 owners.

"It's not just a club now, but a bar-lounge," Zamora points out. "We now serve food and we cater to companies and schools for launches, events and parties. We can organize events for them."

Olive has hired food consultants **Kim Santos** and **Sonny Alamandres** to plan the menu.

Seven partners are professional DJs who work in the bar and "are available for booking," says Jurado who is one of them.

Since Leonor has been a long-time performer with The Dawn, he was assigned to kick off the band nights on Tuesdays.

"We used to be closed on Tuesdays and also on Sundays and Mondays, but we've reinvented ourselves," Leonor says.

Tuesdays are alternative band nights, headlined by The Dawn.

"We started it a few weeks ago without any publicity, only text marketing and e-mail," Leonor says. "So far, it has been very successful and the band night has gained momentum."

Mondays, Olive is open for events and private parties.

For the Tuesday band nights, taking center stage are Razorback, Kapatid of Karl Roy, Ira Cruz's new band Makatha, Bing (formerly Put3ska) and even Lyn Sherman—all without any professional fees, according to Leonor.

Last week, Zamora, formerly an actor with Repertory Philippines, jammed with Jett Pangan and performed 10 songs with The Dawn.

Wednesdays are party nights with Olive's resident DJs—Jurado, Anthony Kierulf, Myk Tolentino, Jay Tengco, Jon Naval, Owens Sun and Jade.

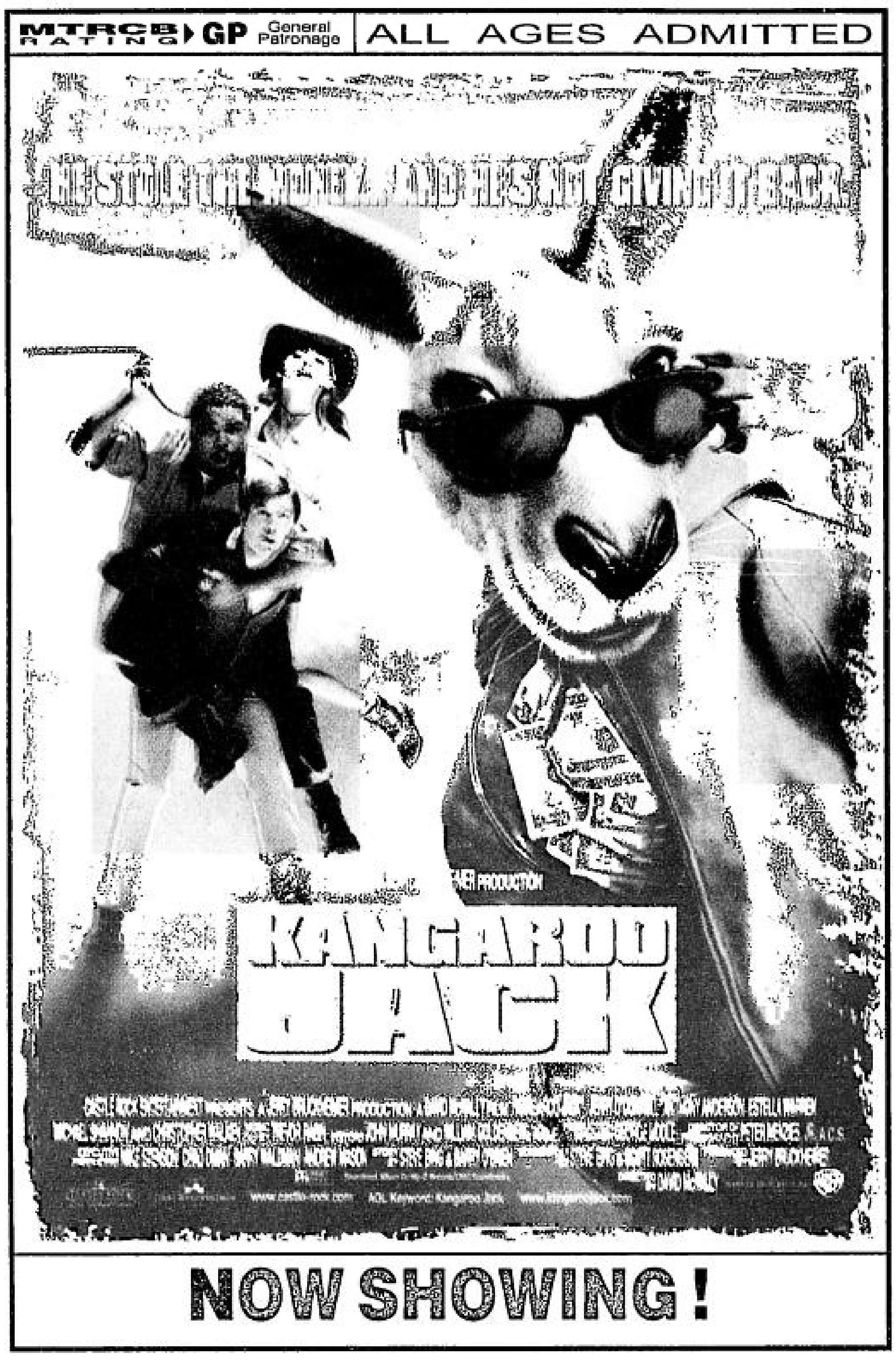
Thursdays have a laid-back mood with rhythm-and-blues music.

Fridays give ladies a treat on selected drinks at the open-bar from 10 p.m. to midnight.

Saturdays dish out house, trance and progressive house music.

All guests must be 18 years old and above.

"We're strict," Jurado declares. "We ask for IDs."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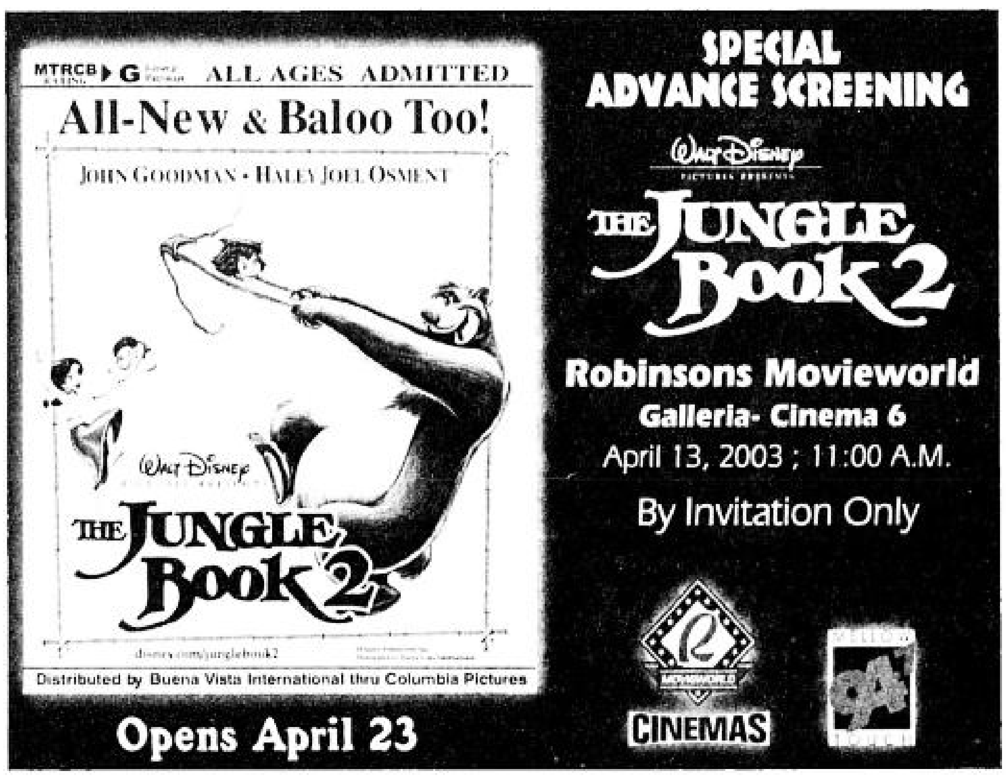
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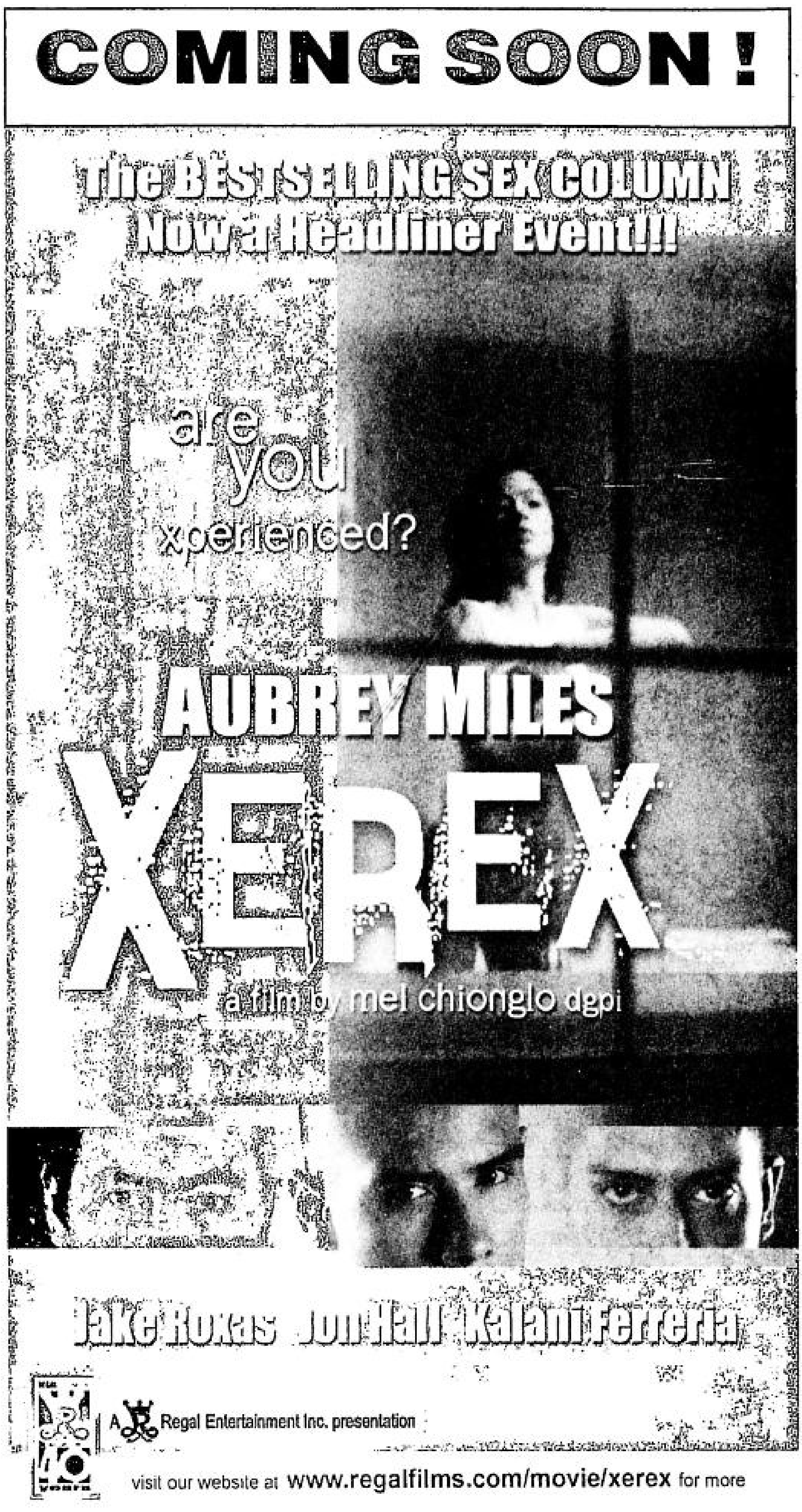
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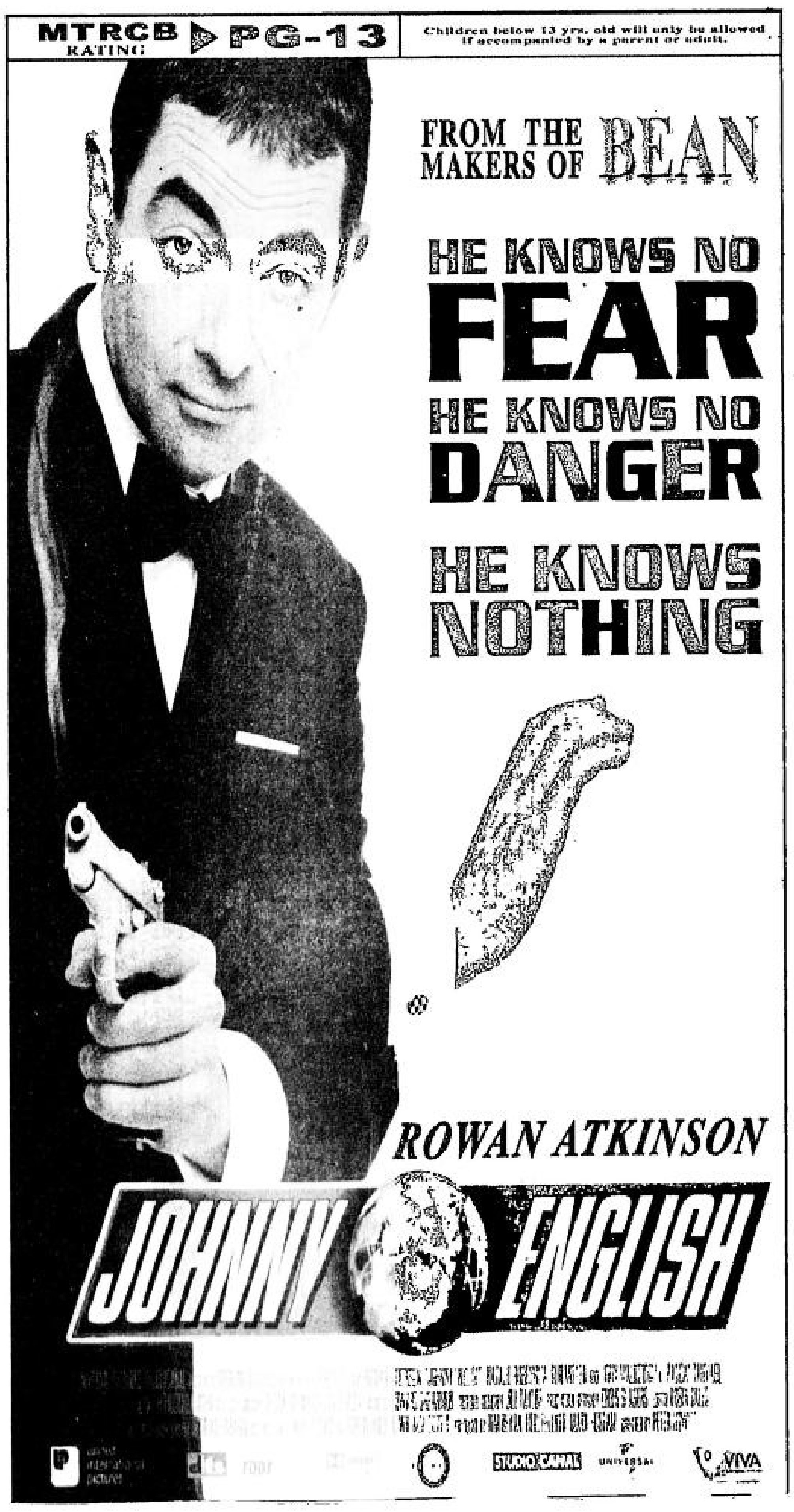
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

More entertainment pages on B5 to B7

'Munting Tinig,' Portes, writers win in Palm Beach filmfest

BIG ACHIEVEMENTS. "Little Voices" stars Alessandra da Rossi as a school teacher.

PORTES

By Marinel R. Cruz

GIL PORTES' "Mga Munting Tinig" ("Little Voices") continues to be heard around the world.

The movie that failed last month to bring home even just one trophy from the 21st Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) awards triumphed in the Palm Beach International Film Festival last Thursday (Friday in Manila), winning the honors for best picture, best director, and best screenplay for scriptwriters Senedy Que and Adolf Alix Jr.

"Winning serves as a vindication for the cold-shoulder treatment the movie received from the Film Academy," Portes yesterday told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from Los Angeles. "It shows that the film is appreciated by an intelligent audience."

After the Palm Beach film festival in Florida, Portes is in L.A. to attend the Newport Beach International Film Festival where "Mga Munting Tinig" is also participating.

"The audience of the Palm Beach festival belongs to a wealthy community in Florida who appreciates films like 'Mga Munting Tinig,'" Portes said. "It feels very reassuring that the movie is widely appreciated abroad."

According to the director, "Mga Munting Tinig" has so far won 15 awards from Philippine and international award-giving bodies, including the Jury Prize, or the award for the second best picture, in the Cleveland International Film Festival held in Ohio last week.

The American Film Institute (AFI), a Los Angeles-based group dedicated to film and television, recently chose "Mga Munting Tinig" as one of the 10 New Asian Classics. AFI trains filmmakers, writers and other artists interested in making movies and TV shows.

"I also consider it an honor to be the country's official representative to the Toronto and Bangkok film fests last January," Portes said.

Last month, on the eve of the FAP awards night, Portes questioned what he said was the body's "disappointing and disgusting" exclusion of "Mga Munting Tinig" from this year's FAP best picture nominations when the movie was the country's official entry to the 75th Oscar Awards.

The FAP, the Philippine counterpart of the Academy Awards, financed the sending of "Mga Munting Tinig" to the Oscars.

"Once you send a film as the country's representative to the Oscars, doesn't that mean that the film is the best among the collection that you have?" Portes had said.

"Mga Munting Tinig" tells the experiences of a young teacher (Alessandra de Rossi) assigned to a far-flung barrio who gets involved in the lives and hardships of her pupils.

"Mga Munting Tinig" is nominated in 11 categories in the Urian, including for best picture, director, actress, supporting actress (Irma Adlawan and Dexter Doria) and screenplay.

Last night, it competed with Chito Roño's "Dekada '70," Joel Lamangan's "Mano Po," Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Laman" and William Mayo's "Lapu Lapu" for best picture honors in the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas).

In June, the cast of "Mga Munting Tinig" will fly to Moscow to attend the Moscow International Film Festival.

Money show-seminar goes to Baguio City

LIFE ENHANCEMENT coach, singer and composer Dero Pedero conducts "Money, Money! Secret Principles of Money and Prosperity," an enlightening and empowering show-seminar, in Baguio City.

The event will be held at the Benguet Room of the Baguio Country Club on April 28, Monday, from 2-6 p.m.

"Money, Money!" reveals eye-opening money secrets and prosperity principles that can help unlock the door to personal wealth and financial success. The exclusive seminar uses music, video and computer technology to reveal the formulas, strategies and techniques vital in helping bring more prosperity into your life.

Pedero even sings and raps in the seminar to get his message across.

To be discussed in the four-hour course are the definition of money, the metaphysics of money, money myths and money truths, why people fail at saving, the seven secrets to wealth, the universal principles of making money, the prosperous way to wealth and riches, the seven essentials of wealth building, the 10 steps to wealth building, prosperity investing, how to create passive income, the biggest money secret of all, and more.

The event is sponsored by the Lions Club of Baguio, led by Dr. Chris Peralta, and the Baguio Country Club.

For tickets, call Ben Cid at (074) 4425382. For reservations, text or call 0920-4053233. Tickets are also available at the gate.

Pedero's latest book, "Living Alive," a compilation of inspiring articles on how to live a full and significant life, is now available at all National Book Stores. Provincial readers may order it by sending a postal money order of P299 and P45 worth of stamps to Pedero, Buendia Tower, 501 Buendia, Pasay City.

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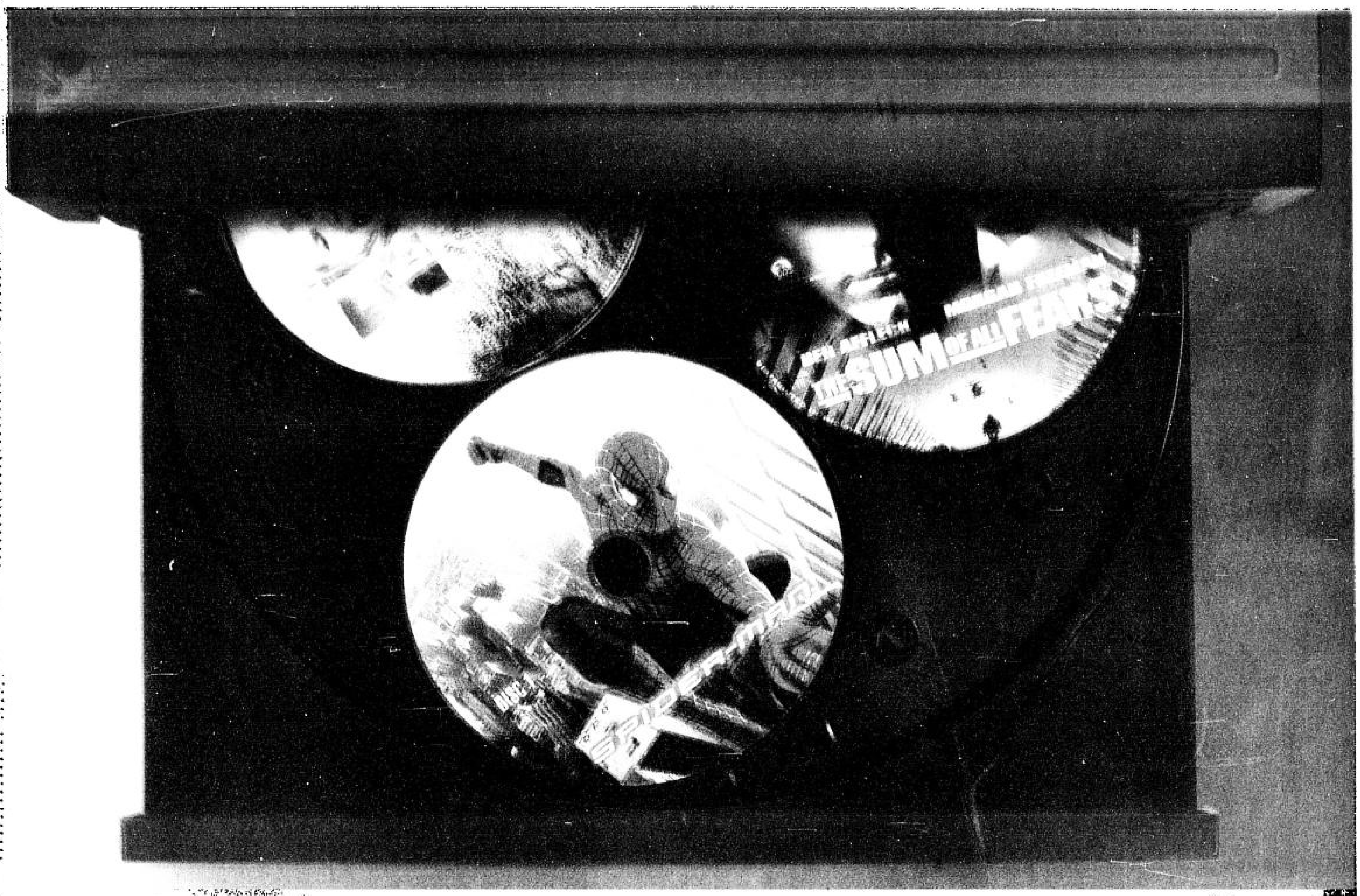
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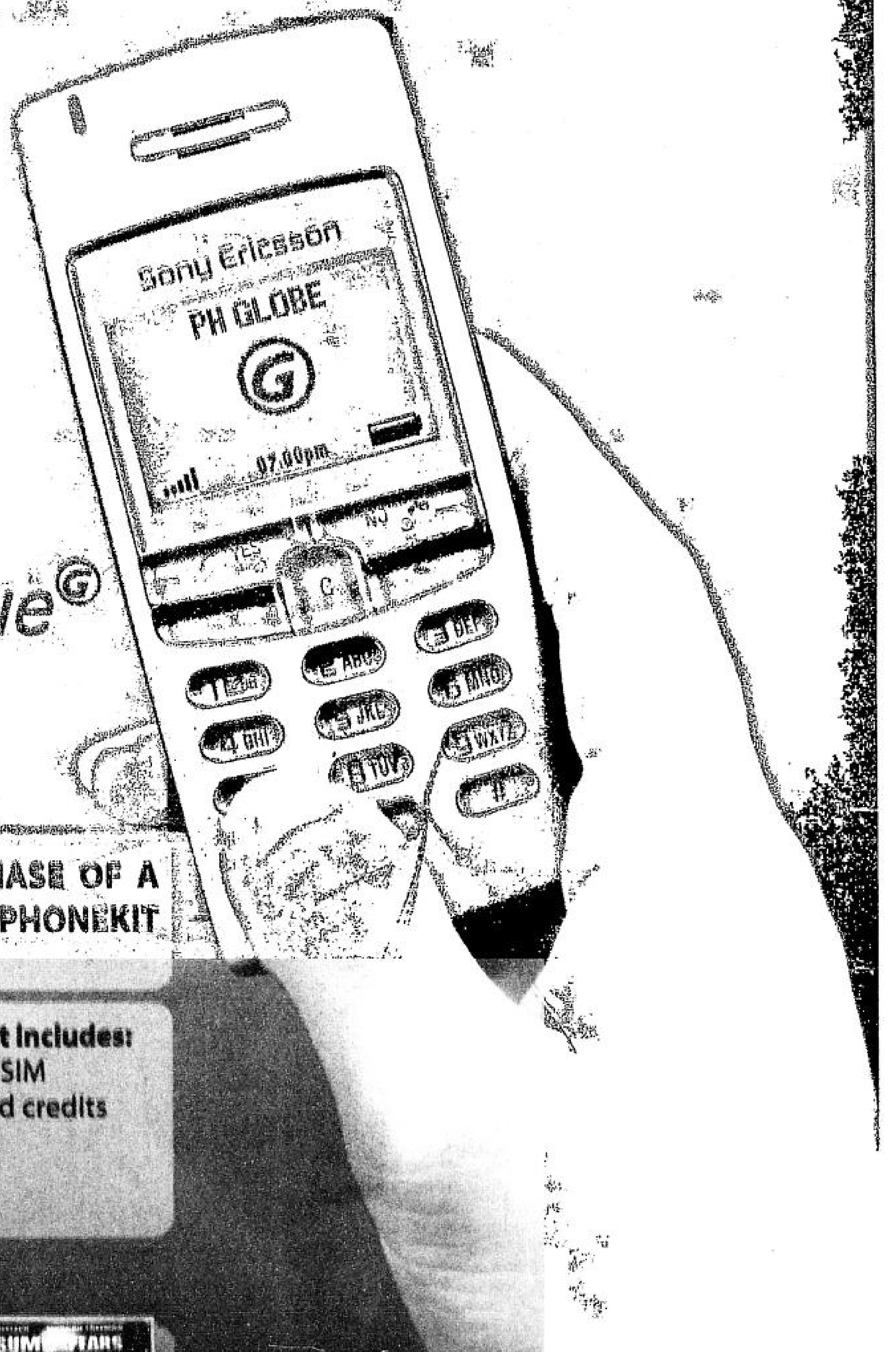
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FROM GASOLINE BOY TO CEO

Exec believes in dignity in any work

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARCH 28 marked the last day of work of newly retired Nestlé Phils. Inc. CEO Juan B. Santos.

It was also the day of his interview for this article.

Santos was in a jovial mood and admitted that in the next few weeks he will have to adjust to a totally different lifestyle—no more coming in to work at seven in the morning and staying until seven in the evening. This has been his routine for most of the nearly 30 years he spent in Nestlé.

SANTOS as Filipro general sales manager, circa '70s.

Santos is the highest ranking Filipino in the Swiss food firm. He is the only Filipino to have ever become a member of the Nestlé Senate—composed of top management and key market heads. Although he retires as CEO, he stays on as the chair of the firm.

Ironically, as he spends his last day as chief executive, SundayBiz came to talk about how he started. And his stories and insights surprised even those who have known him for years.

Hard work was not an alien word to Santos right from the start. From helping put together his father's medical textbooks, to being a gas boy, a busboy and even a pool cleaner, Santos did not mind blue collar jobs to earn extra to augment his income.

This despite the fact that he was born to a middle income family whose head was a physician.

First Job

Santos worked every summer of his college years. During his freshman and sophomore years at the Ateneo de Manila where he studied business administration, he would help edit the textbooks his father used for his lectures, bind them and sometimes deliver them.

"My father published medical books and my sister and I would help proofread, do deliveries, binding and even accounting of the business," he recalls.

He says that although his father was not entrepreneurial, he encouraged the young Santos to pursue business and suggested he find other sectors to work in during the next summer.

Without any qualms, Santos became a gas boy for JD Transit, then the popular bus line that plied the Ateneo, UP route.

The garage of JD was then along Aurora Boulevard. Minimum wage then was P4 a day but he was given P3.50 a day and the following year this was increased to P3.75.

JUAN B. Santos during his last day as CEO of Nestlé Phils. Inc.

JESS YUSON

He worked six days a week and his job was to "ensure the tanks were filled and monitor the daily consumption and take note of the accounting and bookkeeping."

After graduation he applied with several firms in different fields. It was Citibank which accepted him and he started as a credit investigator.

He admits at that time he did not even know what he was supposed to do but he did well anyway and inquired about being admitted to the bank's executive training program.

He was told that if he wanted to pursue the program, he would need a graduate degree so he applied and got accepted to the Thunderbird Graduate School of Management in Arizona, USA.

Abroad, he also did not hesitate to earn extra and worked as a busboy at the school canteen and a pool cleaner.

"During school time I was in the canteen working as a busboy—clearing the tables, putting them in the dishwasher, mopping the floor. During school breaks I would take care of swimming pools and that would be a challenge because it can get mighty hot in Arizona."

Work as a busboy paid about $3 an hour, Santos recalls.

Santos says the odd jobs did not lay any foundation for his career nor future endeavors. But the value was in helping build his character.

"It's more on character building. There is a discipline one has to follow. You have to do the job well on time. As a gas boy, you have to make sure all the buses are filled and your calculations accurate."

Santos says this is what he wants to impart on the youth: "To have dignity in work no matter what endeavor you do."

"You do not necessarily aim to have a white collar job—every company activity needs manpower. One doesn't foresee where one goes. When I graduated I applied in several areas: manufacturing, marketing, banking. It was a bank which replied. All I was looking for was a decent paying job in a company."

After his stint in Arizona, Citibank invited him back but he decided to look for other opportunities.

He found one as a sales and marketing person of Coca-Cola Export Co., the firm which brings in the secret formula for Coke from the US.

The job required him to travel a lot and he reached the different parts of the country.

But in 1964 after two years of such a lifestyle, he decided he wanted to start a family and felt that traveling in and out of Manila was no way to begin one.

"I wanted to raise a family but if I had continued that career wherein 60 percent to 70 percent of the time, I was out in the provinces, what kind of family life or family will I have," he says.

He decided to find another job that would provide a more stable

EXEC/B2

Power firm lights up houses, minds as well

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SUAL, Pangasinan—Mirant Philippines is one of the biggest power producers in the country, but in the community here where its coal-fired plant is located, the children look to the company as a source of "knowledge power."

Among the educational programs initiated by the company are the Mirant Reads (Reading Enhancement and Development Services), the Gintong Binhi ng Edukasyon scholarship program and the Sow the Seeds of Knowledge book donation program.

The company has also put up a computer laboratory for the Sual school district.

The programs are part of the company's corporate social responsibility, which also includes livelihood programs for residents and environmental protection for Sual and surrounding towns, Robert "Bob" Walker, station manager, says.

Last week, the first batch of beneficiaries of Mirant Reads who were in Grades 1 to 3 at the Pangascasan Elementary School, was recognized in simple rites at the school grounds.

The program targeted slow readers and non-readers of the school as the company's response to a Department of Education mandate that pupils who cannot read must not be promoted to the next grade level, says Fritzie Joyce Gacutan, who is in charge of Mirant's community relations affairs.

Gacutan claims that the number of slow readers and non-readers in the school had been reduced.

Every Friday afternoon, which has become Mirant Reads Day, 17 volunteer employees spend at least two hours teaching non-readers and slow readers of the school located about a kilometer away from the power plant.

"The children were taught to master the alphabet until they were able to read words and whole sentences. Each volunteer gave personalized service tailor-fitted to the needs of each beneficiary, creating an excellent partnership with their respective pupils towards better study habits," Gacutan says.

POWER / B2

SUAL station manager Bob Walker plants an agoo tree for legacy with a grade 5 student from Cacao Elementary School in Sual as part of the "Mga Sibol ng Pamana" Tree Planting Project.

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Fair shows some of RP's best

By Michelle V. Remo

THE RECENT 2003 National Trade Fair once more showed the Filipino's potential to thrive in the world market.

With products coming from various provinces bearing craftsmanship and artistry at par with the best in the world, going home empty-handed from the fair was not a possibility.

The products ranged from furniture to food, fashion accessories, handicrafts, ceramics and novelties.

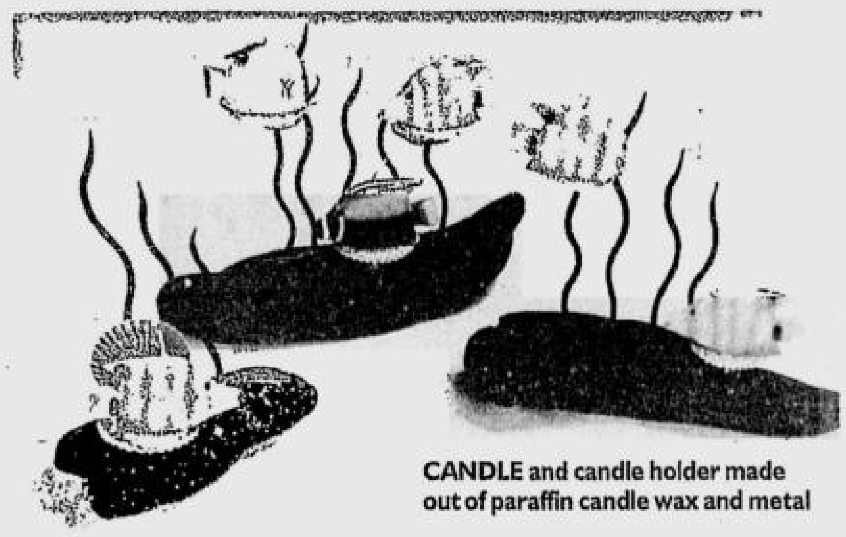
Knowing the Filipino's potential is the reason why the Department of Trade and Industry has been providing programs, like the Trade Fair, for small Filipino entrepreneurs.

This year's Trade Fair, held last March 12-16 at the SM Megamall, was participated in by 192 SMEs.

The exhibitors underwent a year-long program of the DTI , which included the Exhibitors' Advisory course and the Product Development course.

The Exhibitors' Advisory Course deals with topics like participating in trade fairs, dealing with buyers, exporting, visual merchandising and pricing. The Product Development course, meanwhile, focuses on giving entrepreneurs bright ideas on how to improve their products and thus make them sell more.

PLANTER and ash tray made out of bamboo and marble studs


CANDLE and candle holder made out of paraffin candle wax and metal

Anne Sevilla of the DTI's information office says that some of the exhibitors, after developing the proper entrepreneurial skills through the training program, have already started exporting.

"Seeing these SMEs grow is what the DTI hopes to achieve in its various SME development programs," says Sevilla.

To be included in the DTI's programs, participating SMEs had to pay a minimal amount of P8,000 to P17,000 depending on the nature of one's business. Sevilla says that the fee covers all the skills training courses as well as the Trade Fair participation. Aside from the fee, Sevilla says one has to have a business permit and should pass the DTI's product evaluation. Once the DTI assessed that one's product has the potential to compete in the market, the SME would be allowed to join the Trade Fair.

Angie Ilul, owner and manager of Angie's Yakan Cloth (AYC) which was one of the exhibitors in the trade fair, says her company has been joining the trade fair for four consecutive years. She said that joining the DTI's programs has helped her develop the necessary skills in running her business and increase sales through the Trade Fair.

AYC is a Zamboanga-based company that produces placemats, bags, throw pillows, table accessories and home decor. One of AYC's highlighted products is the hanger made of red tiger wood. The artistic designs of the hangers that match the peculiar red tiger wood make them home decor as well.

Ilul shares that the hanger is created by prisoners from the San Ramon prison in Zamboanga whom she employs during their spare time. She said that she is glad to help the prisoners generate income while in prison. "In return, they are able to help me by producing good-quality hangers," said Ilul.

She said that it was her husband's nephew, a police assigned in the San Ramon prison, who gave her the idea of employing prisoners.

Though her employees are often loaded with tasks in the prison, she says that the little time they could spare for making the hangers is already a big help for her and the prisoners.

She says that each prisoner gets an average of P50 for every hanger that he produces. The red tiger-made hanger is sold at P100 to P150.

Ilul shared that during last year's Trade Fair, AYC earned P240,000. She says she was hoping that in this year's Trade Fair, AYC would surpass last year's profits.

"As long as DTI provides the SME programs, I will always take part because they really help a lot in making my business grow. I cannot thank DTI enough for all the support I got," says Ilul.

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Testing Officer, Guidance Center
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E-mail: admit@usls.edu.ph

BAGUIO CITY
Ms. Angelita A. Padilla
Guidance director
Baguio Colleges Foundation
Tel. No.: (74) 4422564

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Ms. Flordeliza A. Velez
Testing Officer
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan
Tel. No.: (88) 8583116/ (8822) 723116
loc. 2054/2064
E-mail: floravel@xu.edu.ph

CEBU CITY
Mrs. Remedios A. Baculao
Psychometrician, Testing Center
University of San Carlos
Telefax No.: (32) 2531000 loc. 181
E-mail: testing@usc.edu.ph

DAVAO CITY
Ms. Paulita C. Sorongon
Guidance Counselor
Ateneo de Davao University
Tel. No.: (82) 2212411 loc. 8309
E-mail: sorongon@magisx.addu.edu.ph

DUMAGUETE CITY
Ms. Violeta H. Teves
Psychometrician
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Dr. Fely David
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Central Philippines University
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LEGASPI CITY
Mr. Carlos Ante
Office of Dean of Academic Affairs
Divine Word College
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NAGA CITY
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2. Pay the testing fee of US$20.00 at the cashier.
3. Present your receipt and get your exam permit with assigned test date and venue from the Admissions Office.
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*downloadable from our website or apply on-line.

Please bring the following on the test date: test permit, two (2) pencils, two (2) black ballpens and a scientific calculator.

REPLY FORM

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ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Exec believes in dignity . . .

From page B1

environment and one that would keep him close to his family.

He found one when he replied to an ad. He did not realize that the company would be his home for the next 29 years.

Nestlé Phils., was then called Filipro Inc., and Santos initially felt the huge difference in the corporate culture of an American company (Coca-Cola) and a European one—Filipro.

He admits he thought of quitting early on but decided to give it more time. And he never left.

He says he stayed because he realized that Nestlé is a professionally-run company then and now.

"It is open and transparent. I worked with people who are open-minded. Opinions and ideas are not only allowed to surface to be heard but to be implemented as well. Once you begin to get into the groove of the Nestlé way, you begin to like it," he says.

Santos says what makes the company different from his other employers is its focus on customers.

"In everything we do we always talk of the consumers," he says.

His passion for the company paid off. Under his leadership, Nestlé Phils. grew to be the eighth largest corporation in the Philippines and in the Nestlé context, is now the largest in the Asean and the 12th in the world.

Looking back on his achievements, Santos takes the most pride in the fact that he was able to strike a balance between career and family.

"I am glad and satisfied that at the end of my career I was able to balance a successful profession and personal satisfaction," he says.

He says he leaves his post with a good family life, good health and is at peace with his Creator.

Being an early riser, Santos says one of the hardest things to stop himself from doing is leaving the house everyday to go to his office.

He says work problems have never kept him sleepless. "You try your best and you be honest and consult with people. At the end of the day , you make the decision and you leave it to somebody up there."

"I am mentally prepared. I no longer have to deal with the day-to-day work of a CEO but it will take weeks for me not to wake up early in the morning and work weekends to prepare what I want to accomplish in the coming week or month. I have to reprogram my schedule," he says.

SANTOS shaking hands with former President Fidel V. Ramos

But Santos says he might end up busier than he was because of his directorships in other companies. He sits on the board of San Miguel Corp., PLDT, Equitable-PCIBank. He is involved in several NGOs like the Philippine Business for Social Progress and the Ramon Magsaysay awards.

But the first item on the agenda of a retired Santos is a boat trip with his three teenage grandsons to Cebu.

"I enjoy them and I monitor them. They always manipulate grandma and grandpa," he smiles.

WITH daughters Aileen, who studied business; and Ana, who took up culinary arts.

RECEIVING the Management Man of the Year award in 1994 from Cora de la Paz and Art Aguilar

WITH wife Mila and grandsons

Power firm lights up . . .

From page B1

After three months, the teachers evaluated the 48 beneficiaries of the program. Their oral examination showed that 44 of them had a marked improvement in their reading capability.

Walker pays tribute to the volunteer employees, saying it was them who deserve the credit. "Their enthusiasm, dedication and support are second to none," he says.

Supporting children

"The bottom line is supporting the children, helping in changing their lives (because) you'll never know the impact of what you're doing to their future," says Walker.

Because of the project's success, Sual district supervisor Josefina Versoza asked that the project be expanded to all schools in the town.

But Walker says it was up to the volunteer employees to decide to expand the program to the 19 barangay schools of the town, which hosts the 1,200-megawatt power station.

With education among Mirant's priorities for community programs, the company has also launched the Gintong Binhi ng Edukasyon scholarship program, which aims to send poor but deserving students to college.

The scholars are entitled to a college scholarship for any four or five-year course of their choice, plus a monthly allowance.

Book donation program

Complementing the educational programs is the "Sow the Seeds of Knowledge" book donation program that shares various supplementary teaching and instructional materials with surrounding elementary schools and the Sual National High School.

The program is anchored on Mirant Philippines' belief that the first step towards achieving quality education is the availability and sufficiency of supplementary materials for teachers and students.

Another program is the establishment of a computer laboratory at the DepEd Sual district office, done in partnership with the DepEd and the Sual's local school board.

The laboratory, with 20 slightly used computer units and two printers from the plant, is dedicated to teaching the Grade 6 pupils of Sual with basic knowledge and computer skills.

Environmental protection

To help children realize the importance of environmental protection and to show how the plant helps in protecting the environment, the Mirant Sual station sponsors "Bisita ed Sual Power Station Tayo (BEST) Lakbay Aral program.

The program, which teaches the basic operations of the power station, also focuses on making Grade 6 pupils and fourth year high school students realize that environmental protection is a responsibility of the community and the station.

In fact, the 9-km road to the plant, which was once a denuded land, is now lined with newly planted trees.

The tree-planting project, participated in by employees and residents, was named "Mga Sibol ng Pamana" and hoped to instill a sense of ownership and responsibility among the residents in taking care of the environment.

There were 1,244 narra and fir trees planted in 2002. These were supplemented with agoo trees planted this year.

"These are living legacies of Mirant Philippines' strong commitment to environmental stewardship," Walker says, adding that Mirant is a "very responsible" company when it comes to environmental protection.

Development projects

Aside from the educational programs, the company's presence is felt by the community through development projects like animal dispersion program, alternative livelihood training for Sual cooperatives and livelihood opportunities for cooperatives inside the station.

The station has helped at least 15 cooperatives and has forged contractual jobs with them. These jobs include janitorial services, lawn maintenance, road cleaning, general cleaning and others.

The income of the cooperatives is augmented through the animal dispersion program.

Cebu shipping heir strikes oil on his own

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

MANDAUE CITY—A. D. Gothong Manufacturing Corp., maker of the "Bambi Oil" brand is listed down in Tanikalang Ginto Web Directory as one of the world's leading manufacturers of vegetable oil and vegetable oil products.

Barbara Gothong-Tan, Vice President for Finance and daughter of the company's founder, after whom the brand was named, modestly denies this. "We're still striving to be No. 1 in Cebu—maybe, we're getting there. If we do, then we'll aim higher," she says.

A. D. Gothong is a company which grew strong with unrelenting integration and with a series of borrowings—mostly from a government corporation, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).

If Bambi Oil is "never heard of" among Metro Manila consumers, it won't be for long. From what used to be a 95 percent Visayas-Mindanao-based market, the company is eyeing a stronger marketing presence in Metro Manila and Luzon in the next few years.

Soon, it is projected that Bambi products would be in supermarket shelves of SM branches.

A. D. Gothong is Albino Dee Gothong, scion of the prominent shipping family of Cebu, who broke away from the established family business to strike out on his own in a completely different field.

Relinquishing the family business

In the 1960s, Albino helped his late father, Don Carlos A. Gothong Sr., manage the family-owned Carlos A. Gothong Shipping (which in recent years merged with another shipping giant to form William Gothong-Aboitiz Shipping).

In the 1970s, he decided to set up his own shop, in an area far removed from shipping.

On his own, Albino began quite modestly—as distributor of Lu Do & Lu Ym products, then the biggest coconut oil producer in the country.

In 1978, he began manufacturing shortening and margarine, with a starting capital of P800,000, part of which was borrowed. The first factory was a modest structure on a 2000-square meter lot in Subangdaku, Mandaue City, using second-hand equipment acquired from Lu do & Lu Ym.

Integrating its way to the top

Today, A. D. Gothong has stayed put in Subangdaku. But the original property has expanded into a sprawling compound to keep up with the growth of the firm into a veritable business "empire."

All A.D. Gothong subsidiaries—A.D. Gothong Industries, Bambi Marketing, A.D. Gothong Marketing, Alpa Oil Mill and Alpa Land—can be found within the four-hectare compound.

The story of A.D. Gothong's phenomenal growth may be summed up in a word: integration.

When companies integrate, they assimilate control in their backyard. They minimize the unexpected and the unpredictable in the external environment.

When they integrate backwards, they make sure that they have a grip over materials and components they need, their supply and their prices. So they produce their own materials.

When they integrate forward, they take over the marketing, distribution and packaging activities. So they process their own products, put up their own sales outlets, and do their own packaging.

Albino's daughter Bambi describes the most recent of the companies' integration moves.

Latest integration feat

The company used to sub-contract its packaging requirements to a packaging firm in Metro Manila. "We shipped the oil in tanks to Manila where they are tooled and then shipped back to Cebu.

The process was costly, inconvenient, and risky, Barbara recalls. It involved double handling of the product which in turn implied double exposure to damage, loss and delay.

The family weighed the investments against the benefits of another assimilation move. The outcome was a decision to set up yet another company—A. D. Gothong Industries—that will supply plastic bottles and other packaging materials to Alpa Oil Mill and A.D. Gothong Manufacturing.

With a P30 million loan, the Gothongs purchased plastic moulding machines, injection machines, pelletizers, crushers and accessories—in short, a complete plastic manufacturing plant. The modern technology package included a Chinese technician who helped set up the plant, supervised pilot runs, and conducted in-house training of technical personnel.

The new company was, moreover, more than just a packaging factory. Procuring fuel generators as well, it began to supply power not only to the packaging but also to oil milling and oil product manufacturing operations.

To begin with, Bambi products have a competitive edge. They use the physical refining process which uses steam to purify the crude oil. It is cleaner, purer and more hygienic than the conventional chemical method. Quality is another feature. "Every batch is inspected. Quality control is 24 hours a day," says Barbara.

In-house packaging became another competitive plus, Barbara asserts. It resulted to reduced production costs and, in turn, to more competitive pricing. All these had a positive effect on sales, which improved almost 50.percent.

Mobilizing integration resources

Integration is the dream of every other company, but only a handful go through with it. Those who do are the firms with an edge in resources or, more precisely, in the resourcefulness of their owners and managers.

ALBINO D. Gothong who left the family shipping business to begin his own group of companies.

In the case of the Gothong group of companies, resourcefulness came in the form of loans. Borrowing always worked for them in seasons of peak investments.

Albino recounts that when he was setting up his very first oil mill, it was the DBP that extended financial assistance through the Private Development Corp. of the Philippines (PDCP).

When the Gothongs decided to go into oil refining, they took out another loan from the DBP under the KFW, a German funded facility.

In investing in plastic manufacturing it was again from the DBP that they sourced capital funds. This time, the program tapped was the Industrial and Support Services Expansion Program (ISSEP). The loan was taken out through the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Cebu Branch, one of the DBP retailer-banks.

The loan take-out was P30 million, five years to pay, interest rates fixed at 10.86 percent. "Among my term loans—and I have quite a few—the ISSEP interest rate is the best."

Room for more growth

Is there room for more integration, more growth?

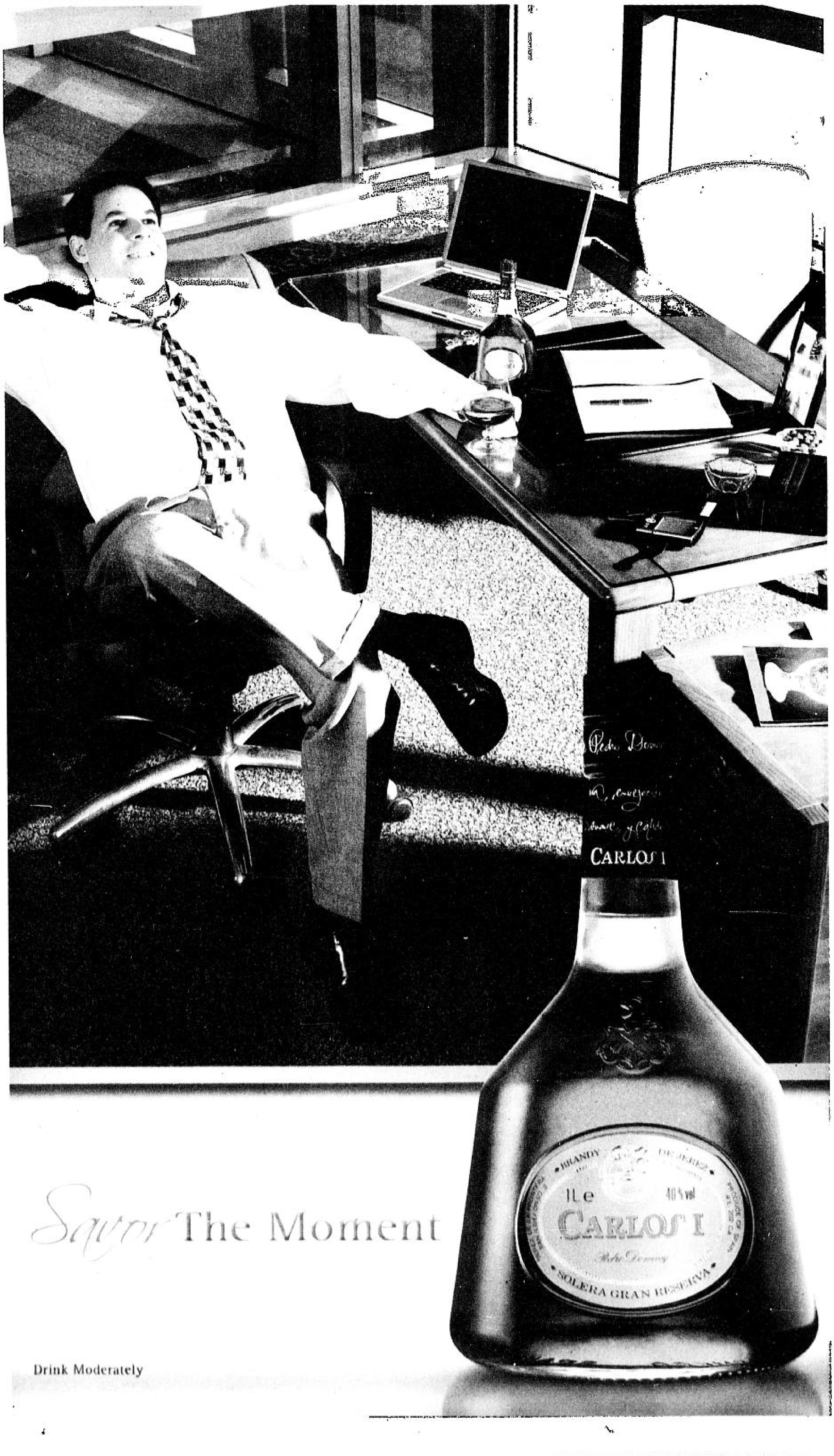
Literally, yes. The four-hectare compound at Subangdaku has space for some more expansion.

But Albino Gothong may well take a respite from entrepreneurial work and bask in past business successes. And indeed he is increasingly being known in Cebu for his philanthropy. Yet, he is not about to hang up his working gloves.

In fact, he and daughter Barbara have buckled down to work on laundry soap making plans. Since soap-noodle production will make use of coconut oil products, the project again synchronizes with the integration mindset that has propelled Bambi oil to No. 1.

Will the move be accompanied by more borrowing? Father and daughter answer with a categorical "Yes!"

(For info on DBP's lending programs for SMEs call up the Program Lending II & Program Management-Development Banking Sector, Tel. 815-0998 and 867-3233, respectively.)



People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Sun Cellular teams with LogicaCMG to provide next generation services

SUN CELLULAR, the newest entrant in the mobile arena, has forged an alliance with LogicaCMG, a global solutions company, to provide the most advanced mobile and customer services. The partnership includes the delivery of wireless messaging solutions for Sun Cellular's Short Messaging Service Center (SMSC) and Multimedia Messaging Service Center (MMSC) and the design of a CRM solution that is wholly focused on improving customer interaction to build stronger, more valuable long-term customer relationships.

LogicaCMG has over 60 years of combined expertise in the IT services industry and supports clients across diverse markets including telecoms, financial services, energy and utilities, industry, distribution and transport, and the public sector. The partnership between Sun Cellular and LogicaCMG ensures mobile subscribers the highest level of telecommunications service.

Reaffirming its commitment to mobile subscribers, Sun Cellular's partnership with LogicaCMG aims to respond to customer demand for faster and more reliable delivery of innovative mobile services. Digitel GSM business unit head Charles Lim says, "As such, it is imperative that we choose a partner with proven global expertise. LogicaCMG's market leading position and dedication to understanding our business reinforce our confidence in this partnership."

SMS has become a key service for mobile operators, generating tremendous usage, particularly among the youth market segment. Building on the success of SMS, MMS enables the messages containing graphics, photographic images, audio and even video clips to be transmitted between mobile devices using WAP over GPRS as bearer technology. This allows Sun Cellular subscribers flexibility in communicating, as the technology transforms mobile phones into advanced terminals. The number of mobile-phone users is expected to reach 500 million worldwide by 2003, and with help of SMS and MMS, 75 percent of all cellular phones will be Internet-enabled.

LogicaCMG's expertise in customer care complements Sun Cellular's innovative application of CRM and related technologies. The partnership allows Sun Cellular to become more efficient in the identification, acquisition, retention and service of customers across multiple channels. This, further combined with both companies' foresight in anticipating customer needs, has given Digitel GSM a headstart in the competitive Philippine mobile services market.

Charles Lim concluded, "We are very excited about this relationship, as the agreement with LogicaCMG further strengthens our goal to be a major player in the local mobile service industry. Together with LogicaCMG, we intend to shape the future of mobile telecommunications."

SVPS INKS MOA WITH MMP

Officials of San Vicente de Paul Seminary (SVPS) and Manila Memorial Park (MMP) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement, appointing the latter as the exclusive marketing consultant of the Shrine and Columbarium project. Groundbreaking rites was held on March 25, at the seminary grounds, Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Shown sealing the agreement with a handshake are Fr. Atiliano Fajardo C.M., SVPS head and project director (4th from left), and Enrique B. Lagdameo, MMP EVP/COO (3rd from right). Other officials who witnessed the signing of the MOA are (from left) lawyer Cesar Villanueva, (SVPS counsel), architect Lita Mangalinda (project director), Fr. Venerando Agner C.M. (SVPS secretariat), Dennis G. Lopez (MMP-SVP), and lawyer Eduardo de Jesus (MMP legal counsel and collection department manager).

It's fun and wise to buy a house in Primarosa East subdivision

PROPERTY Company if Friends, or Pro-Friends, launches its newest quality community at an open house with big prizes and surprises. "Fun Under the Sand" will be a game enjoyed by those who have made reservations to own a place in Primarosa East Subdivision. This development is the newest cluster of cheerful homes rising up at the flourishing Villa de Primarosa community of Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite.

Primarosa East's sun-bright residences glows with the ease and comfort of country living while having provisions for modern conveniences. Phones, cable TVs and aircons have ready outlets.

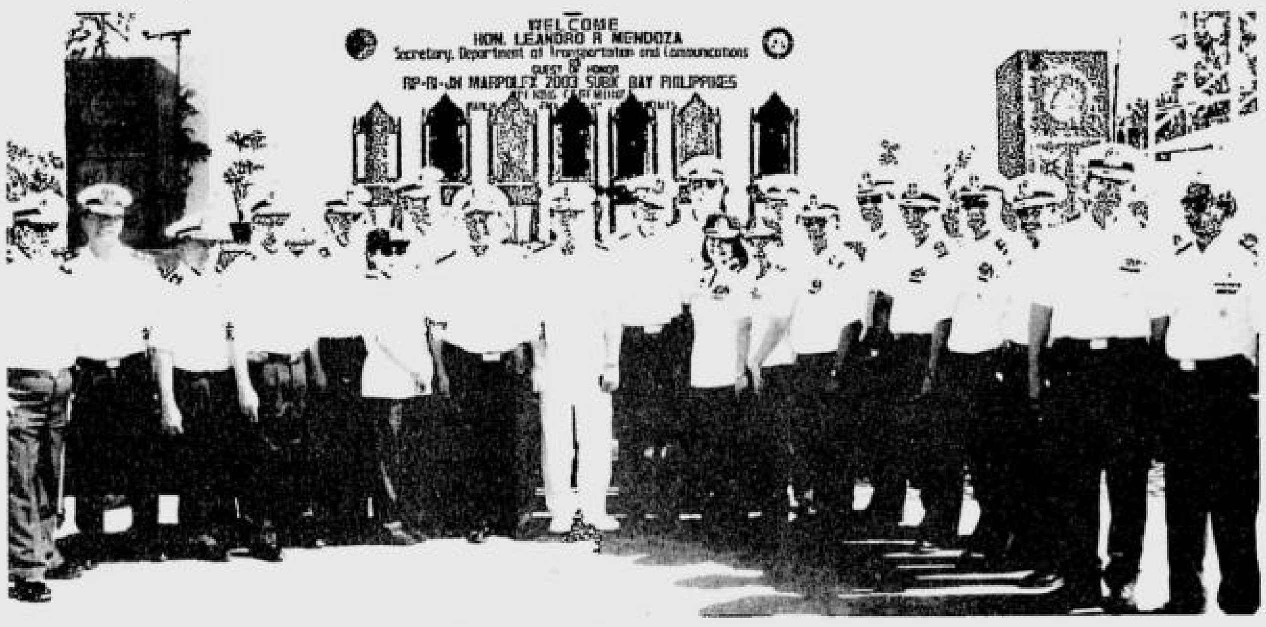
Bigger rooms are the result of an enhanced layout resulting in maximized use of floor space. Each three-bedroom, two T&B townhouse has a floor area of 60 sq. meters on a lot area of 55 sq. meters. There is also a one-car garage and ample water supply.

New attractive steel tiled roofing strengthens the investment and aesthetic value of every Primarosa East home.

Family values are also intensified. Landscaped gardens, an exclusive clubhouse and a basketball court ensure quality time together. A resplendent Catholic church, built by Property Company of Friends, within the nearby Villa de Primarosa brings families closer together. With over a thousand families, this established community gives new Primarosa East homeowners much needed support.

Light-on-the-budget financing plans lift worries away. In this unsettling world situations today, a home at Primarosa East is a prudent way of investing in a basic need that appreciates in real estate values, as well as family values.

Come and join Primarosa East's open house from March 22 to April 13. Win big prizes. Call Property of Friends (Pro-Friends) Cath or Wheng at tel. 535-5343 or 535-5170.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PCGA ACTS ON MARINE POLLUTION ISSUE

In an effort to address the growing concern on the cleanliness of our local waters, the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) actively participated in the International Marine Pollution Exercise held recently in Subic Bay, Zambales. In cooperation with the Japan Coast Guard and Indonesia Coast Guard, the PCGA was taught the proper ways and means in effectively dealing with the issue in this worthwhile ecological program. The Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary's contingent was headed by Vice Admiral Joselito Aseniero (middle in undress white uniform), Rear Admiral Eduardo Alvarez, Commodore Benjamin Mata, Captain Danilo Cabalde, Captain Richard Barreras, Captain Lino Marable and other officers from the 106th Squadron, which fielded 16 of the 20 PCGA participants.

BUILD ASIA
UNDERTAKES THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED OFFICE / WAREHOUSE FOR:
ABC
ALLGEMEINE-BAU-CHEMIE PHIL., INC.

ABC PHILIPPINES INC. BREAKS GROUND AT LISP III

Allgemeine Bau Chemie Philippines Inc. (ABC Phils.) the pioneer in manufacturing of tile grouts and adhesives in the country recently broke ground to start the construction of their Service and Distribution Center in the Light Industry and Science Park III (Lisp III) in Sto Tomas, Batangas. The facility will serve their growing clientele in the Southern Luzon area. ABC Phils. Inc. is a Filipino-Austrian joint venture established in 1981. A leader in the industry, it has a nationwide distribution network that covers the entire Philippines with service centers in key cities of the country. The groundbreaking rite was headed by Mr. Axel Brandner (4th from left), the company's chairman of the board. Others in photo (from left) Mario Bautista, sales and marketing manager of ABC Phils.; Lito Dominguez, AVP park operations of Science Park of the Philippines Inc. (SPPI); Axel Brandner Jr., ABC director; Jun Balingit, VP marketing of SPPI; Joel Torres, president of Build Asia; Renato Apacible, president of ABC Phils. and Eric Cruz, EVP of Build Asia.

WORLDBEX 2003 OPENS AT WTC, PTTC

Organized by Worldbex Services International (WSI), Worldbex 2003, the 8th Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition was held recently at the World Trade Center (WTC) and Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) in Pasay City. Photo shows (from left) Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad; Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri; presidential adviser on Housing and chair of Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Secretary Michael Defensor; Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando; WSI founding president Joseph L. Ang; WSI co-founder Levi Ang; US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone; Sri Lankan Ambassador Ariya Rekawa; Habitat for Humanity board member and Youth Build 2003 chair, Margie Moran-Floreindo; and Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ric Sandoval.

Clips

TNCCC healing retreat

THE NEW Covenant Catholic Community (TNCCC) will have a healing retreat "Healing the Wounds of the Family" on Palm Sunday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Paul College Gym (Gate 1), Gilmore Avenue corner Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. The family, which is the basic unit of society and the bastion of an individual's security, is always the easiest prey of oppression. Make this retreat, therefore, as a balm applied on the hurting wounds inflicted on your family. Strengthen and protect your family as you seek refuge to the soothing and comforting words of wisdom from Fr. Jerry Orbos SVD and Fr. Larry Faraon OP and find the way to overcome the hurts in your family. Everyone is invited. Admission is free.

Rondalla at The Park

THE 25th anniversary celebration of "Concert at the Park" continues this Sunday, April 13, 5 p.m. with the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music Rondalla under its director and conductor Roberto Calubayan. Joining the one-hour program are assistant director/conductor Ben Brilliantes, guest sopranos Lea Pegoria and Elisante Cortes and Pianist Jason Ros. Susan Fernandez is program host. "Concert at the Park" is a weekly cultural project of the National Parks Development Committee and the National Broadcasting Network. It is aired nationwide over NBN-Channel 4 every Thursday at 6 p.m.

Holy Week photo tilt

THE HOLY Week observation is the theme of a photo contest open to members of camera clubs affiliated with the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation from April 13 to 20. Contest subjects include the religious and pseudo-religious practices, rites, dramatizations, costumes, décor participants, spectators, and other sights related to the observance of Holy Week in the Philippines. First prize is P7,000, second P5,000, and third P3,000. The contest is open to photographers who are bona fide active members of currently FPPF-accredited camera clubs. For accreditation inquiries, call 813-7420 or 843-5341. Corresponding points will be credited to the top 30 winners who are currently participating in the Photoworld Cup competitions. Deadline for submission of entries is on May 31 at 2 p.m. Participants must use Fujicolor or YKL Films.

CAFÉ NESCAFE OPENS THREE BRANCHES

Café Nescafe, a global initiative to bring to consumers new experiences with the world's favorite coffee brand in an out-of-home setting, now has six branches in the country located in Metro Manila, with the recent opening of three new branches at the City Lifestyle Building on Timog Avenue in Quezon City, the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa, and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 2 in Parañaque. Other Café Nescafe branches are located at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center in Makati, Robinsons in Ermita, Manila and Glorietta 3 in Ayala Center, Makati. Two more Café Nescafes are scheduled to open shortly, at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas and at the Taft Tower near De La Salle University in Manila. For more information or comments on Café Nescafe, visit www.nescafe.com.ph or email café.nescafe@ph.nestle.com. Photo shows (from left) QC Mayor representative Pax Maghacot, branch operator Howard Co, Congresswoman Nanette Daza and Nestle CEO Juan B. Santos officially starting the much-celebrated Café Nescafe Timog Branch with the cutting of the ribbon.

TOTAL OPENS PASIG STATION

TotalFinaElf Philippines (TFE Phils.), marketer of Total brands recently opened its newest service station located along C5 corner E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagong Ilog, Pasig City. TFE Phils. is set to open more stations in strategic areas in and out of Metro Manila as part of its aggressive expansion plan in the country this year. In photo are Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio; TFE Phils. managing director Jeff Attwood (second and third from right respectively) together with 18-K service station manager Jason Curry Josef (far left) and TFE Phils. vice president for retail Grilles Cartier (far right) during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE WILD THORNBERRYS	1 NATIONAL SECURITY	ArtFilm 1 CHICAGO 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE RECRUIT 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:30	THX 1 NATIONAL SECURITY
2 SEX DRIVE	2 THE RECRUIT	2 KANGAROO JACK 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 NATIONAL SECURITY 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	2 KANGAROO JACK
3 KANGAROO JACK	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 JUST MARRIED 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ACOUSTIC NIGHT OUT SERIES May 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & 31	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE WILD THORNBERRYS 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15	3 THE WILD THORNBERRYS
NATIONAL SECURITY	4 SOLARIS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE CORE 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:30	4 SOLARIS
	5 THE WILD THORNBERRYS		GUARANTEED SEATS KANGAROO JACK 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10	5 THE RECRUIT
	6 KANGAROO JACK			
	7 THE CORE			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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1	WILD THORNBERRY
2	THE RECRUIT
3	JUST MARRIED
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	THE CORE
6	NATIONAL SECURITY
7	SOLARIS
8	JUNGLE BOOK (SNEAK PREVIEW)
9	DREAM CATCHERS
10	ANGER MANAGEMENT(SNEAK PREVIEW)

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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 , 833.3274

1	SEX DRIVE
2	PALABAN
3	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

st rmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	WISH MASTER
2	SEX DRIVE
3	PALABAN
4	THE CORE
5	VIRGIN PEOPLE

METROPOLIS st r
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	HAPPY HOURS
2	VIRGIN PEOPLE
3	SEX DRIVE
4	THE CORE
5	KANGAROO JACK
6	NATIONAL SECURITY

M st r
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(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	DREAMCATCHERS
2	WILLARD

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(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

SOLARIS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	JUST MARRIED
2	DREAMCATCHERTS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	PALABAN
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SEX DRIVE
2	PALABAN
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1	NATIONAL SECURITY
4	THE CORE
5	JUNGLE BOOK (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6	SEX DRIVE
7	KANGAROO JACK
8	ANGER MANAGEMENT (SNEAK PREVIEW)
9	SOLARIS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	JUNGLE BOOK (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2	SEX DRIVE
3	ANGER MANAGEMENT (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4	NATIONAL SECURITY
5	THE RECRUIT
6	THE CORE
7	KANGAROO JACK
8	CORY QUIRINO STORY
9	VIRGIN PEOPLE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	SEX DRIVE
2	JUNGLE BOOK (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3	NATIONAL SECURITY
4	ANGER MANAGEMENT (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5	KANGAROO JACK

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SEX DRIVE
2	ANGER MANAGEMENT (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3	THE RECRUIT
4	JUNGLE BOOK (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5	THE CORE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SEX DRIVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SEX DRIVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	VIRGIN PEOPLE-3
Lords	VIRGIN PEOPLE-3
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETHALL
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	VIRGIN PEOPLE
2	PALABAN
3	NATIONAL SECURITY
4	KANGAROO JACK

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1	KANGAROO JACK
2	THE CORE
3	ANGER MANAGEMENT (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4	SEX DRIVE
5	PALABAN

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 - 879.2029

1	PALABAN
2	SEX DRIVE

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MALL CINEPLEX
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1	SEX DRIVE
2	TEARS OF THE SUN
3	NATIONAL SECURITY
4	THE CORE
5	KANGAROO JACK
6	SOLARIS
7	THE RECRUIT

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1	SEX DRIVE
2	WILLARD

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	THE CORE
2	SEX DRIVE
3	KANGAROO JACK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SEX DRIVE
2	FINAL DESTINATION
3	WISH MASTER
4	ANGER MANAGEMENT (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2	KANGAROO JACK
3	THE CORE
4	WISH MASTER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FINAL DESTINATION
2	CRADLE TO THE GRAVE
3	TEARS OF THE SUN
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	SEX DRIVE
2	THE CORE
3	GANGS OF NEW YORK
4	WILLARD

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	SEX DRIVE
2	THE CORE
3	GANGS OF NEW YORK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	PALABAN
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	SEX DRIVE
4	VIRGIN PEOPLE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	THE CORE
2	SEX DRIVE
3	WISH MASTER
4	JAILBIRD
5	FINAL DESTINATION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KANGAROO JACK
2	SEX DRIVE
3	SEX & ZEN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	THE EYE
2	SEX DRIVE
3	SEX & ZEN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SEX DRIVE
2	TEARS OF THE SUN
3	DREAMCATCHERS
4	GANGS OF NEW YORK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	GANGS OF NEW YORK
2	SEX DRIVE
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TEARS OF THE SUN
2	GANGS OF NEW YORK
3	SEX DRIVE
4	JUST MARRIED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1	GANGS OF NEW YORK
2	SEX DRIVE
3	THE CORE
4	JUST MARRIED

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	WISH MASTER
2	MESSAGE SEND
3	GANGS OF NEWYORK
4	JUST MARRIED

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
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SM CITY BACOOR
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1	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
2	THE RECRUIT
3	THE CORE
4	NATIONAL SECURITY
5	KANGAROO JACK
6	SEX DRIVE
7	WILLARD
8	HAPPY HOUR

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	NATIONAL SECURITY
2	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
3	KANGAROO JACK
4	DREAMCATCHER
5	THE CORE
6	WILLARD
7	GANGS OF NEW YORK
8	SOLARIS
9	SEX DRIVE
10	THE RECRUIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
2	WILLARD
3	TEARS OF THE SUN
4	THE RECRUIT
5	NATIONAL SECURITY
6	SEX DRIVE
7	THE CORE
8	KANGAROO JACK
9	GANGS OF NEW YORK
10	VIRGIN PEOPLE 3
11	JUST MARRIED
12	HAPPY HOUR

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
2	THE CORE
3	NATIONAL SECURITY
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	SOLARIS
6	THE RECRUIT
7	WILLARD
8	DREAMCATCHER
9	SEX DRIVE
10	HAPPY HOUR
11	GANGS OF NEW YORK
12	JUST MARRIED

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	TEARS OF THE SUN
2	THE RECRUIT
3	SOLARIS
4	NATIONAL SECURITY
5	KANGAROO JACK
6	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
7	WILLARD
8	JUST MARRIED
9	SEX DRIVE
10	THE CORE
11	GANGS OF NEW YORK
12	HAPPY HOUR

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	THE RECRUIT
2	THE CORE
3	SEX DRIVE
4	WILLARD
5	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
6	SOLARIS
7	KANGAROO JACK
8	NATIONAL SECURITY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
2	THE RECRUIT
3	HAPPY HOUR
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	JUST MARRIED
6	WILLARD
7	SEX DRIVE
8	THE CORE
9	SOLARIS
10	NATIONAL SECURITY

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	TEARS OF THE SUN
2	THE CORE
3	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
4	JUST MARRIED
5	RING 2 (JAPANESE)
6	AMAZON
7	SEX DRIVE
8	THE RECRUIT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GANGS OF NEW YORK
2	CLOSED
3	THE CORE
4	EXTREMISTS
5	DREAMCATCHER
6	THE RECRUIT
7	CLOSED
8	SEX DRIVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	THE CORE
2	SEX & ZEN 2
3	JUST MARRIED
4	THE RECRUIT
5	ABANDON
6	SEX DRIVE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	SEX DRIVE
2	KANGAROO JACK
3	NATIONAL SECURITY
4	THE CORE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	THE CORE
2	SEX DRIVE
3	NATIONAL SECURITY
4	KANGAROO JACK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	DREAMCATCHER
2	EXTREMISTS
3	TEARS OF THE SUN
4	THE CORE
5	THE WILD THORNBERRYS
6	THE RECRUIT

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	NATIONAL SECURITY
2	SEX DRIVE
3	KANGAROO JACK
4	THE CORE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	TEARS OF THE SUN
2	JUST MARRIED
3	GANGS OF NEW YORK
4	THE CORE

THE PODIUM CINEMA
633-8976

1	SOLARIS 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END
2	THE WILD THORNBERRYS MOVIE 11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/9:05 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

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THX	THE CORE 11MF, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 12:15 MF
2	KANGAROO JACK
3	JUST MARRIED
4	THE RECRUIT
5	NATIONAL SECURITY
6	SOLARIS
7	DREAM CATCHER
8	SEX DRIVE
9	WILLARD
10	WILD THORNBERRY

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Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	THE CORE
2	THE RECRUIT
3	SOLARIES
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	SEX DRIVE
6	WILD THORNBERRY
7	NATIONAL SECURITY

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	WILD THORNBERRY
2	SOLARIES
3	THE CORE
4	NATIONAL SECURITY
5	THE RECRUIT
6	WILLARD
7	KANGAROO JACK
8	SEX DRIVE

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	THE CORE
2	WILLARD
3	THE RECRUIT
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	DREAM CATCHER
6	WILD THORNBERRY
7	JUST MARRIED
8	SEX DRIVE

Malabon Eisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	NATIONAL SECURITY
2	KANGAROO JACK
3	SEX DRIVE
4	PALABAN

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1	ABANDONED
2	SEX DRIVE
3	JUST MARRIED
4	JAIL BIRDS
5	SEX & ZEN
6	THE CORE

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	THE CORE
2	NATIONAL SECURITY
3	WILD THORBERRY
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	SEX DRIVE
6	WILLARD

Sta. Rosa Laguna
049-8370907

1	KANGAROO JACK
2	THE CORE
3	PALABAN
4	SEX DRIVE
5	JAIL BIRD

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	FINAL DESTINATION
2	DREAM CATCHER
3	THE RECRUIT
4	THE CORE
5	THE EYE
6	ASTERIX & OBELIX

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	THE CORE
2	DREAM CATCHER
3	THE RECRUIT
4	EXTRIMIST
5	GANGS OF NEW YORK
6	SEX DRIVE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Fight to the finish

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE COMPETITION every Thursday night between Channel 2's "Maalaala Mo Kaya" and Channel 7's "Magpakailanman" is such a big deal that, right after last April 3's initial confrontation, ratings figures were quickly computed, to show who ended up on top.

The initial verdict: "MMK" got 38 points, while "M" garnered 22. This indicates that Channel 2's show is still the anthology drama program of choice on its original timeslot, so **Charo Santos** et al. can heave a sigh of relief.

On the other hand, 22 is a pretty respectable rating for Channel 7's program on its new timeslot, so "MMK" still has to hustle to make sure that "M" stays in second place.

Some analysts observe that "MMK" may have done much better than "M" last Aug. 3, because its episode was on the life of a celebrity, **Carol Banawa**, while "M" tackled a non-show biz personality's experience.

If this is a big relevant factor, then both shows have to keep coming up with celebrities life stories, like last Thursday's "MMK" episode on **Ai-Ai delas Alas**, and "M's" drama feature on **Vicky Belo**.

Trouble is, we only have so many celebrities around who have interesting stories to tell, so this can't be a permanent arrangement. The time will soon come when the two drama anthology shows will have to do non-celebrity stories.

That's when star value will come into more prominent play. Fact is, even now, both shows are beefing up the star value of their respective episodes, using such big names as **Maricel Soriano** and **Rosanna Roces** to attract viewers.

In addition, Channel 2 and 7 have been promoting their shows very heavily, not just with TV plugs but also with print ads. In fact, they've been going too far by plugging their respective programs even in their newscasts. In future, we hope that they learn to be more circumspect in this regard.

It's clear, however, why they're feeling so competitive in relation to their Thursday "duel" on the tube. If "M" clicks with viewers, that would be a symbolic victory of major proportions for Channel 7, because for many years now, that now fiercely-contested timeslot has been the exclusive realm of "MMK."

The fight to the finish continues!

Sneak previews

TWO delightful comedies will have sneak previews in selected theaters this week: On April 14 and 15 (Monday and Tuesday), "Anger Management" starring **Jack Nicholson** and **Adam Sandler**, and on April 15 and 16 (Tuesday and Wednesday), "What a Girl Wants," a teenage romantic-comedy topbilling **Amanda Byrnes**.

In "Anger Management," Sandler's character is mild-mannered and non-confrontational, until an altercation on an airplane lands him in the care of a therapist (Nicholson) - who can use some anger management thereapy himself!

In "What a Girl Wants," Byrnes character seems to have everything anybody could possibly dream of having–except the father she's never known. Impulsively, she hops on a plane to London, and discovers that her long-lost dad is a high-profile politician.

Good for her, but not so wonderful for him: His daughter's appearance threatens to undermine his political career.

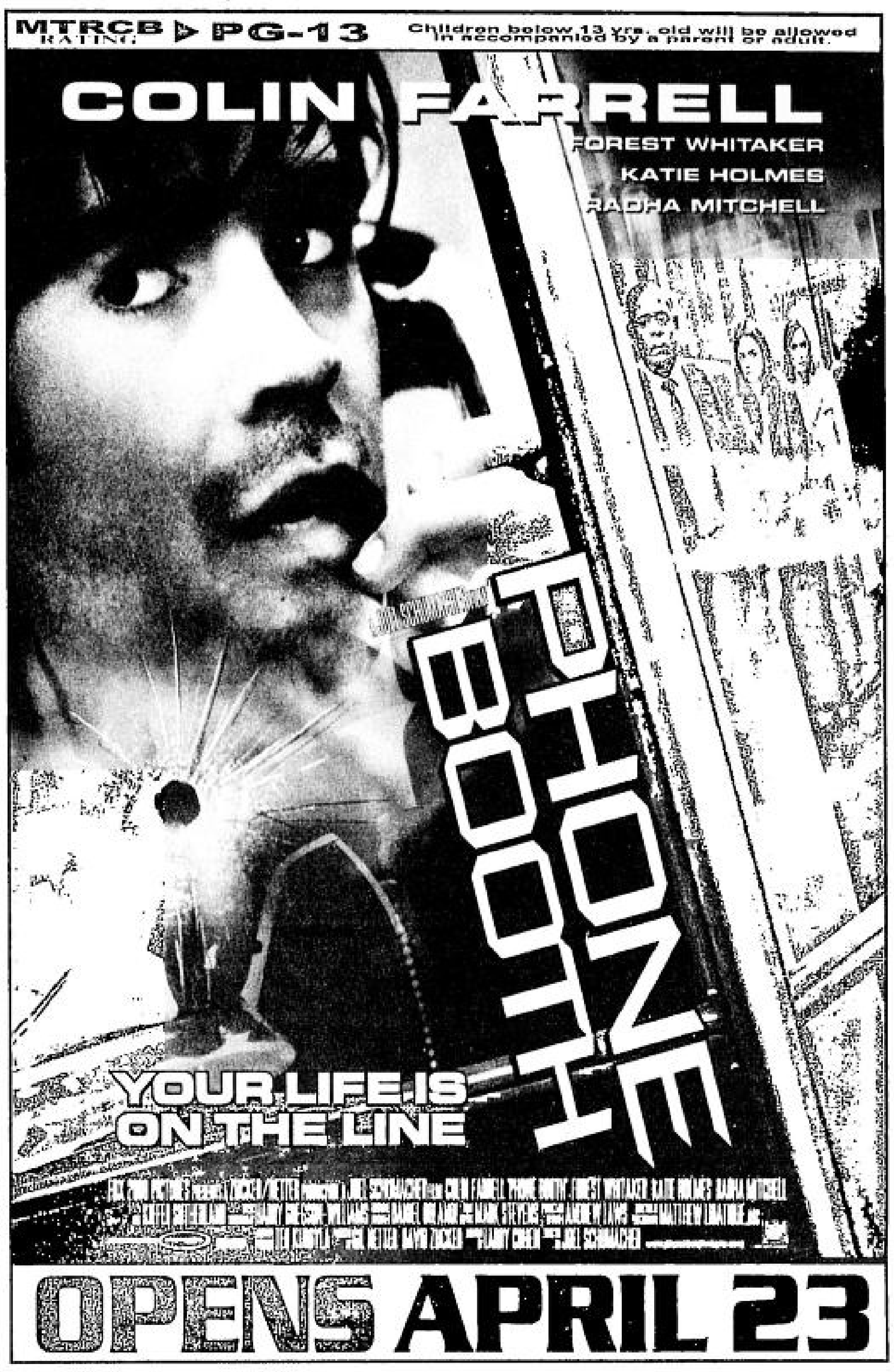
A.K.A. Fellas at Merk's

ON April 14 and 28, the male singing group A.K.A. Fellas performs anew at Merk's at Greenbelt 3. The "pop-capella" group has eight members with vocal ranges from bass to soprano, partnered with a vocal beatbox.

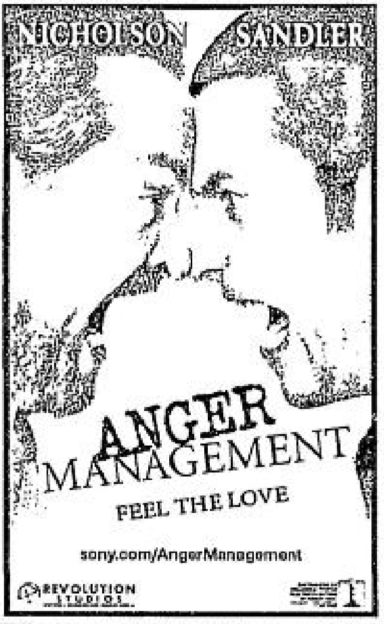
They are **Ralph Joseph, Ikey Canoy, Red Sandico, Reuben Uy, Karl Villuga, Paolo Navarra, Jin de la Cruz** and **Mike Salomon.**

FIGHT/ B7

X-MEN 2
IN THEATRES WORLDWIDE
SOON
MARVEL



MTRCB ▶ R-13 | Strictly for 13 years of age and up



Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson offer non-stop laughs in fun, new comedy

In the No. 1 comedy in America, Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson star together for the first time as patient and therapist -- though at times it's hard to tell which one is which!

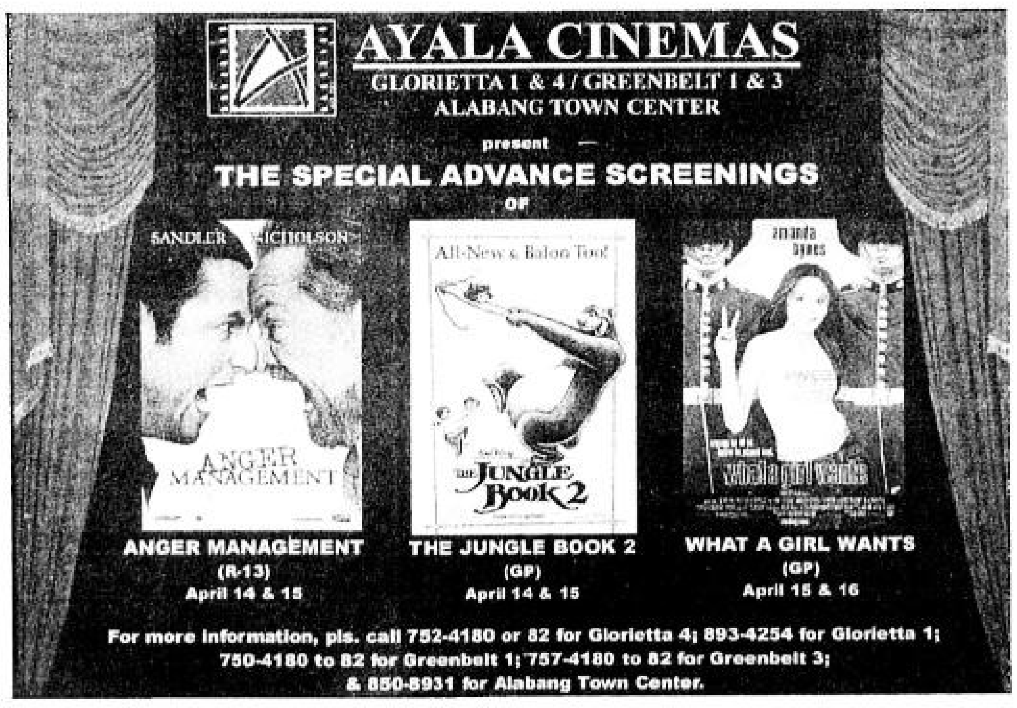
After a misunderstanding aboard an airplane, mild-mannered Dave Buznik (Sandler) is ordered to attend anger management sessions run by outrageous psychiatrist Dr. Buddy Rydell (Nicholson).

Tortured by Buddy's wacky and abrasive confrontational methods, Dave must decide whether to crawl back into his shell or stand up for himself, and keep his girl (Marisa Tomei) along the way.

With surprise appearances by top celebrities.

SPECIAL ADVANCE SHOWING APR14-15

REGULAR RUN BEGINS APR23


AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
present —
THE SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS
OF

ANGER MANAGEMENT (R-13) April 14 & 15
THE JUNGLE BOOK 2 (GP) April 14 & 15
WHAT A GIRL WANTS (GP) April 15 & 16

For more information, pls. call 752-4180 or 82 for Glorietta 4; 893-4254 for Glorietta 1; 750-4180 to 82 for Greenbelt 1; 757-4180 to 82 for Greenbelt 3; & 850-8931 for Alabang Town Center.

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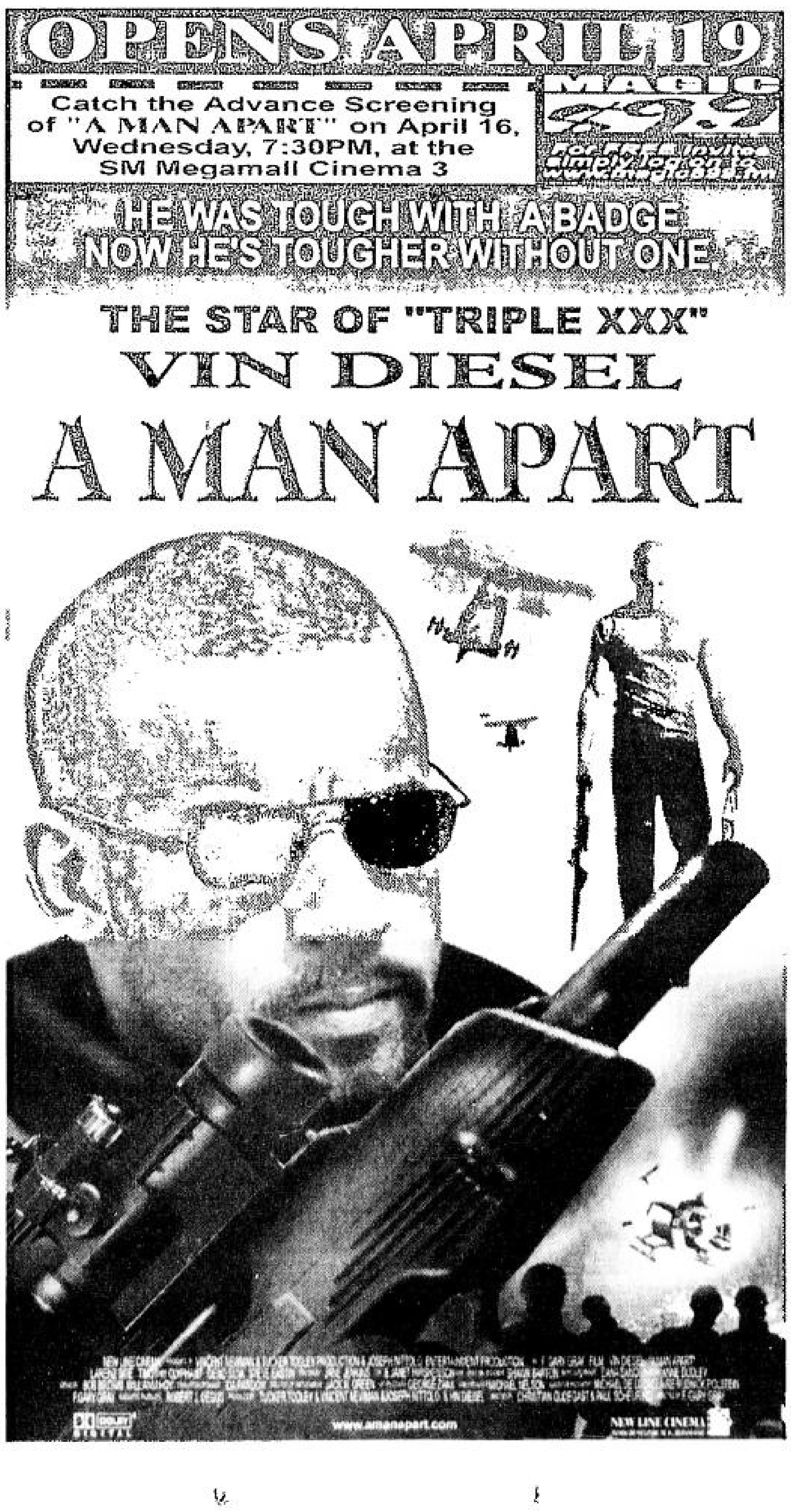
OPENS APRIL 19

Catch the Advance Screening of "A MAN APART" on April 16, Wednesday, 7:30PM, at the SM Megamall Cinema 3

MAGIC 89.9
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NOW HE'S TOUGHER WITHOUT ONE
THE STAR OF "TRIPLE XXX"
VIN DIESEL
A MAN APART
www.amanapart.com
NEW LINE CINEMA

Monster Radio salutes the graduates

MONSTER RADIO RX 93.1, together with Wow Philippines, the Department of Tourism's Visit Philippines 2003 Program, welcomed the graduates of Batch 2003 with "Within the Walls," the RX Grads Party held at the Baluarte de Sta. Isabel within the historic walls of Intramuros.

The place was packed as early as 6 p.m., with people ranging from children to retirees, professionals to the students, who naturally made up the bulk of the audience. They were checking the place, anxious to dance the night away, with a live performance by one of the most popular bands in the country today, Freestyle.

Guest of honor was DOT Secretary Dick Gordon.

Popular RX jock Doctor Love (Tom Alvarez), with two lovely radio personalities Kimberly Marvilla and Christina Bersoza, hosted the event.

This month, RX will have another thrilling and eye-popping events for its listeners.

April 14, Monday, RX will hold the "Monster Movie Premiere" of the hilarious "Johnny English," at SM Megamall Cinema 4.

Then comes the sizzling summer party, "White Heat," at Club 5 in Makati City.

Listeners are also enjoined to listen for the Wooka Wooka Bird to sound its familiar gibberish on Monster Radio RX 93.1.

Summer courses

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines (CPMP), the country's first and largest training school in pop singing, announces its 2003 summer "fun courses," which starts April 21.

Topping the list is the "Starborne" training course in voice and stage performance, which consists of 18 sessions.

"Starborne" guarantees improvement of one's singing voice and stage presence. It also helps overcome shyness and achieve confidence.

Summer students will also enjoy the opportunity of participating in a group production concert to be held May 29 at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

New singing sensation Nina of Warner Music Philippines is a product of the CPMP. With "Heaven" as her first album, Nina started her vocal training when she was only 10 years old.

Other products of the CPMP include Roselle Nava, Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Ima Castro, Cooky Chua, Rufa Mae Quinto and "Star for a Night" champion Sarah Geronimo.

For more information about the "Fun Courses," call the CPMP head office at 73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City at 723-9373 or 727-5293 or 411-7310.

Fight ...

From page B6

Their repertoire includes classic and contemporary pop, R&B and dance music.

'OPTV'

AT 11 p.m. on Monday, April 14 on RPN-9, "OPTV" focuses on the lives of overseas Filipino workers. Special features:

Europe on My Mind–*karanasan ng mag-asawang* OP *sa* Europe. Aegis–*bandang hitik sa* Japan. And Click Bank.

"OPTV" in the City" showcases an "expert" on *balikbayan* boxes. And, on "OPTV Insider," caregivers will be interviewed and asked how other people can get trained as caregivers.

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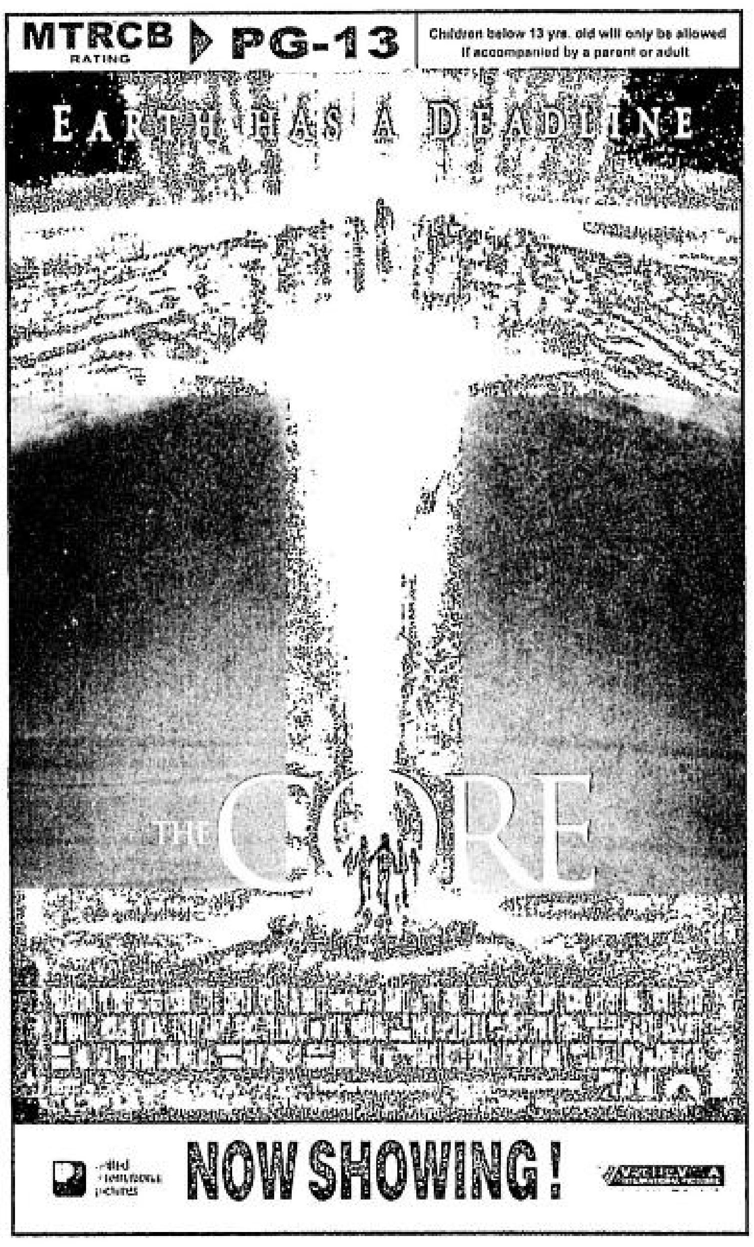
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CINEMA 2	**NATIONAL SECURITY** 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 **P13**

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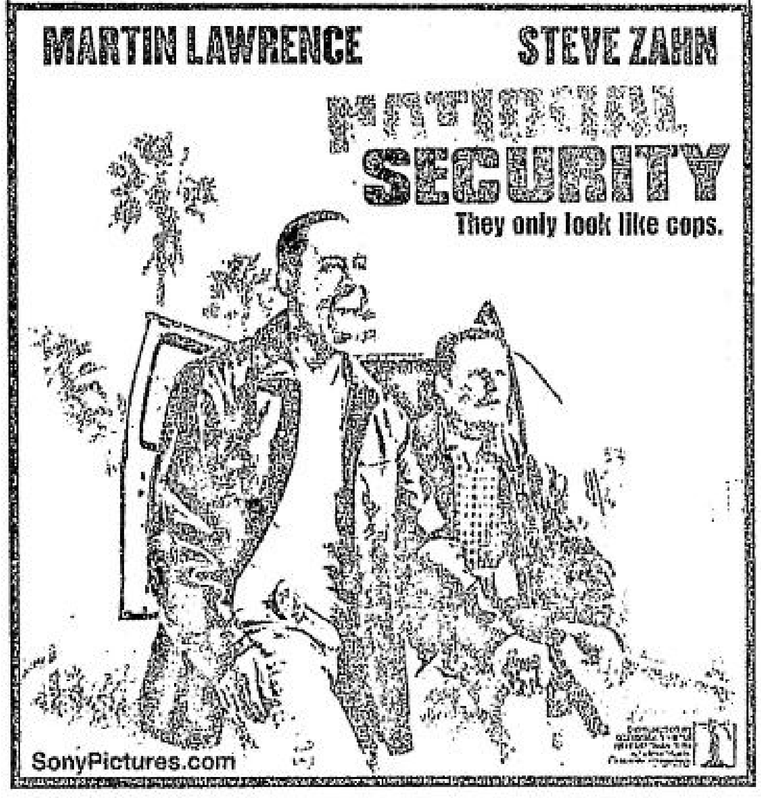
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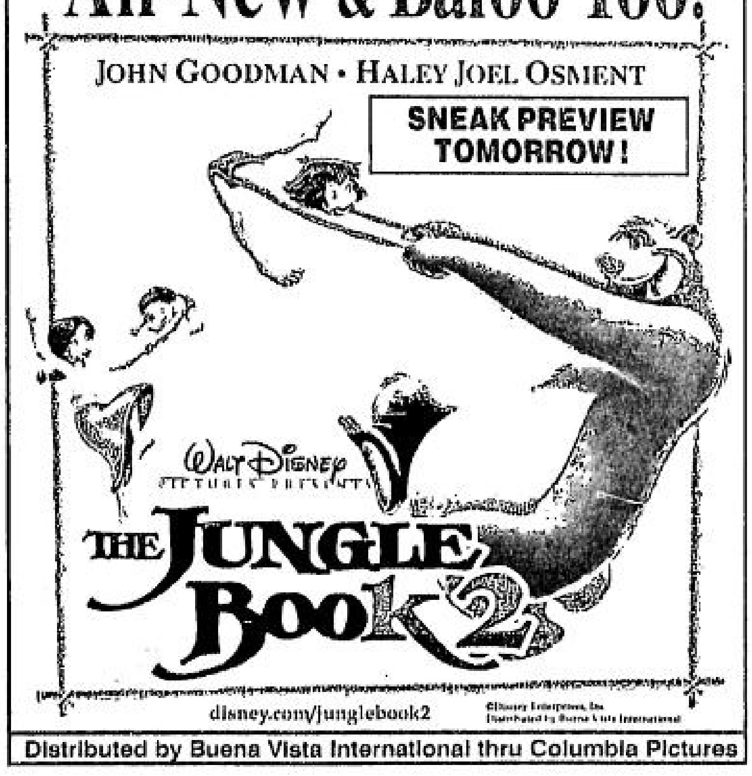
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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SEX DRIVE
Ali 2	TEARS OF THE SUN
Ali 3	NATIONAL SECURITY
Ali 4	THE CORE
Ali 5	KANGAROO JACK
Ali 6	SOLARIS
Ali 7	THE RECRUIT
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	SEX DRIVE
Farmers 2	WILLARD
ARANETA COLISEUM	
APR 17 & 18	SHALOM
APR 20	PBA GAMES
APR 21 & 23	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
ELEPHANT WORLD	
	ELEPHANT EASTER
	PARADE - SUNDAY
	APRIL 20 4PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO/BETTER THAN SEX
ODEON	THE CORE
ODEON-2	BUSINESS FOR PLEASURE/KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ROBEN	SEX DRIVE
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	[illegible]
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HAPPY HOUR
CORONET B	VIRGIN PEOPLE III
QUEZON-1	VIRGIN PEOPLE
REMAR	SEX DRIVE
REMAR-2	CORY QUIRINO STORY
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	YOU & ME AGAINST THE WORLD
B	RAMPADORA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	KANGAROO JACK
CINEMA-2	THE RECRUIT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PALABAN
CINEMA-2	VIRGIN PEOPLE 3
CINEMA-3	HAPPY HOUR
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECRUIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WISH MASTER
CINEMA-6	SEX DRIVE
CINEMA-7	PARU PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-8	ASTERIX & OBELIX
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SOLARIS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	KANGAROO JACK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	NATIONAL SECURITY
CINEMA-12	WILD THORNBERRY S
CINEMA-14	THE CORE
CINEMA-15	WILLARD
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC, CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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KANGAROO JACK **GP** 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00	**THE CORE** **P13** 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:50	**THE RECRUIT** **P13** 12.40, 3.05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20

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Retailers woo fickle customers with service

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LOCAL retailers have thankfully realized that the days when the customer was not really king are gone, and would never come back.

Technological developments have made customers more informed and the proliferation of choices here and abroad for the products that they need have made them empowered.

Retailers, thus, realized that one of the ways by which they could survive increasing competition is through service.

It is this service that compels a customer to choose to always buy a pair of shoes from one store even if the store next door sells the same shoe, maybe even at a lower price.

Many believe that a high standard of customer service is the only factor that distinguishes one company from another.

Various studies have also shown that customers are more fickle because there are more choices and efforts to attract them are more expensive these days. But if there is one thing that will make them a loyal customer, it is service.

SundayBiz features two Philippine firms that have realized the value of customer service.

These companies say customer service policies have been a major reason that enabled them to continue growing despite economic and political controversies that have caused others to slow down or even close operations.

Planet Sports

For the Planet Sports network of stores that includes Nike Stadium, Puma, New Balance and Athlete's Foot, service is accorded the minute the customers step into any of its stores. Sales people greet the customers and then guide them to their seats, or if they prefer, they are left alone to browse the different products.

"We call it our greet and seat program and it has worked very well for us. It really sounds very basic but I think it is an X factor that makes us different from the other retailers," says Planet Sports chief executive Anton Gonzalez.

Planet Sports also keeps a database of regular customers who are informed about upcoming sales, if the particular shoe style they want has arrived or simply to inform them of the latest products through e-mail.

Gonzalez stresses that the sales personnel manning the 50 plus stores under the Planet Sports group undergo training so that they would know the peculiarities of each brand and each style.

Planet Sports has learned through customer feedback that having a service crew who is knowledgeable about the products go a long way in generating customer loyalty.

Gonzalez also says that providing good service is both an art and a science because the sales people have to be able to gauge whether a customer wants help or if they want to be left alone.

"They must be able to know if the customer would like their help. Usually the customers go around the store and if they seem to be zeroing in on a particular shoe then our people will go to them and talk to them without being too pushy," he explains.

Planet Sports also guarantees its products, thus, it quickly replaces a pair of shoes bought from its stores if it proves to be defective. It will, in turn, deal with the distributor of the brand.

"We welcome any complaints and we are proud of our after sales service. We have a policy where people who have bought from our stores before should be treated in the same way as the person who has not bought anything yet," he says.

Gonzalez refers to the customer service policy as an "off balance sheet" asset that has allowed it to hold its own despite competition.

"I think good customer service and good inventory management have really helped us. For example, we have a 60 square meter Nike Stadium in Glorietta, which is just right down the 200 square meter Nike Park. When it opened, I thought we would be clobbered but I believe we are actually doing better and customer service had a lot to do with it," Gonzalez says.

Vida Doria

Clothes stores come and go just as fashion trends change from season to season but the Vida Doria group has remained a force to reckon with in the local fashion retail scene for three decades due partly to the importance it puts on customer service.

Vida Doria-Legaspi who founded the store and remains its chief creative consultant, tells in an interview that customer service has never been more important to a company as today when customers are faced with many choices.

"There is so much competition that you cannot afford to not deal with customers properly, or else you will lose that customer," she says.

Doria even has a sign on her main office in Quezon City, Philippines that says: "It takes months to get a customer and only seconds to lose them."

She says she put the sign there to make everybody in the company aware of the importance that they should put on customer service.

"For instance, we tell our sales people that they cannot judge customers based on what they wear or how they look. We should show everybody the same respect, whether they wear slippers or Manolo Blahniks," Doria says.

According to Doria's manual on customer service, sales people should greet their customers promptly, ideally within 10 seconds from the time he/she gets into the store.

Doria also stresses that customers want people who smile, they want clean, comfortable and attractive surroundings, they want to talk to someone who looks professional and well-groomed and they expect immediate attention if they need it.

"We also teach them how to deal with difficult customers because it is really impossible to please everybody. But many of them have been with us for some time so they are used to it," she says.

Vida Doria also teaches the sales people how to anticipate customer's needs. Some people, for instance, want to be left alone while others want constant attention. There are also those who are unsure of their taste so they ask the help of the staff.

"We do not just offer them the most expensive item in our store. We try to show them the clothes that would look good on them. Given a choice between an expensive shirt that does not look good on them and a cheaper one that is perfect, we would still want them to get the cheaper one," Doria says.

Doria says these little personal touches to selling, on top of having top quality clothes, have helped Vida Doria stay in competition despite the influx of foreign and local competition.

PLANET SPORTS

PLANET Sports' "Greet and Seat" program helps draw in the buying crowd.

VIDA Doria says putting a personal touch to selling helps her company stay in competition.

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French drops in on business school

ONE of the highlights of the 35th anniversary celebration of the Asian Institute of Management was the lecture of former IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

Camdessus, now the honorary chair of the Bank of France, left the IMF three years ago and now has his hands full helping his country forge a program with other industrialized nations to help Africa and developing countries.

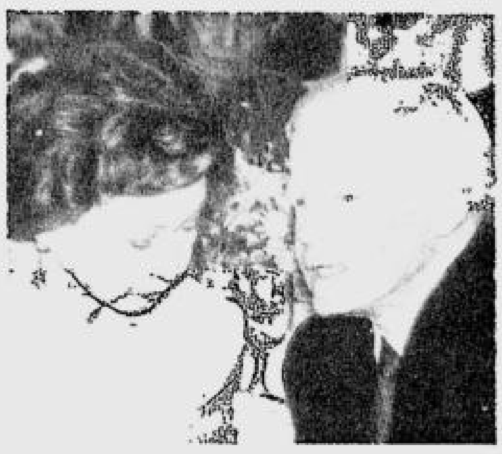
He may be busy but he took time out from his schedule to be the keynote speaker at the 3rd AIM - Governor Jose B. Fernandez Jr. Center for Banking and Finance Memorial Lecture held last April 4.

Many of the country's top business and political leaders trooped to the AIM Conference Center Manila to listen to Camdessus' speech entitled, "Toward a Monetary and Financial Architecture for the 21st century."

(From left) AIM President Roberto de Ocampo, Michel Camdessus, Former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos and Former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel Singson during the 3rd AIM-JBF Memorial Lecture.

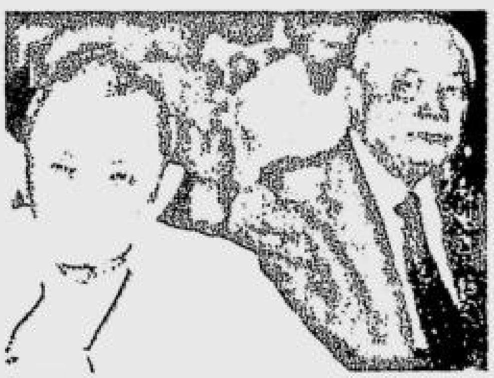
FORMER IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus delivers his lecture entitled "Toward A Monetary and Financial Architecture for the 21st Century."

AIM co-chair Jose L. Cuisia Jr., French Amb. Renee Veyret, Dulce Cacho-Fernandez, Camdessus, former President Fidel V. Ramos, AIM co-chair Washington SyCip, AIM president Roberto de Ocampo and Singson.


JBF Center board Dulce Cacho-Fernandez in a huddle with AIM co-chair Jose L. Cuisia Jr.

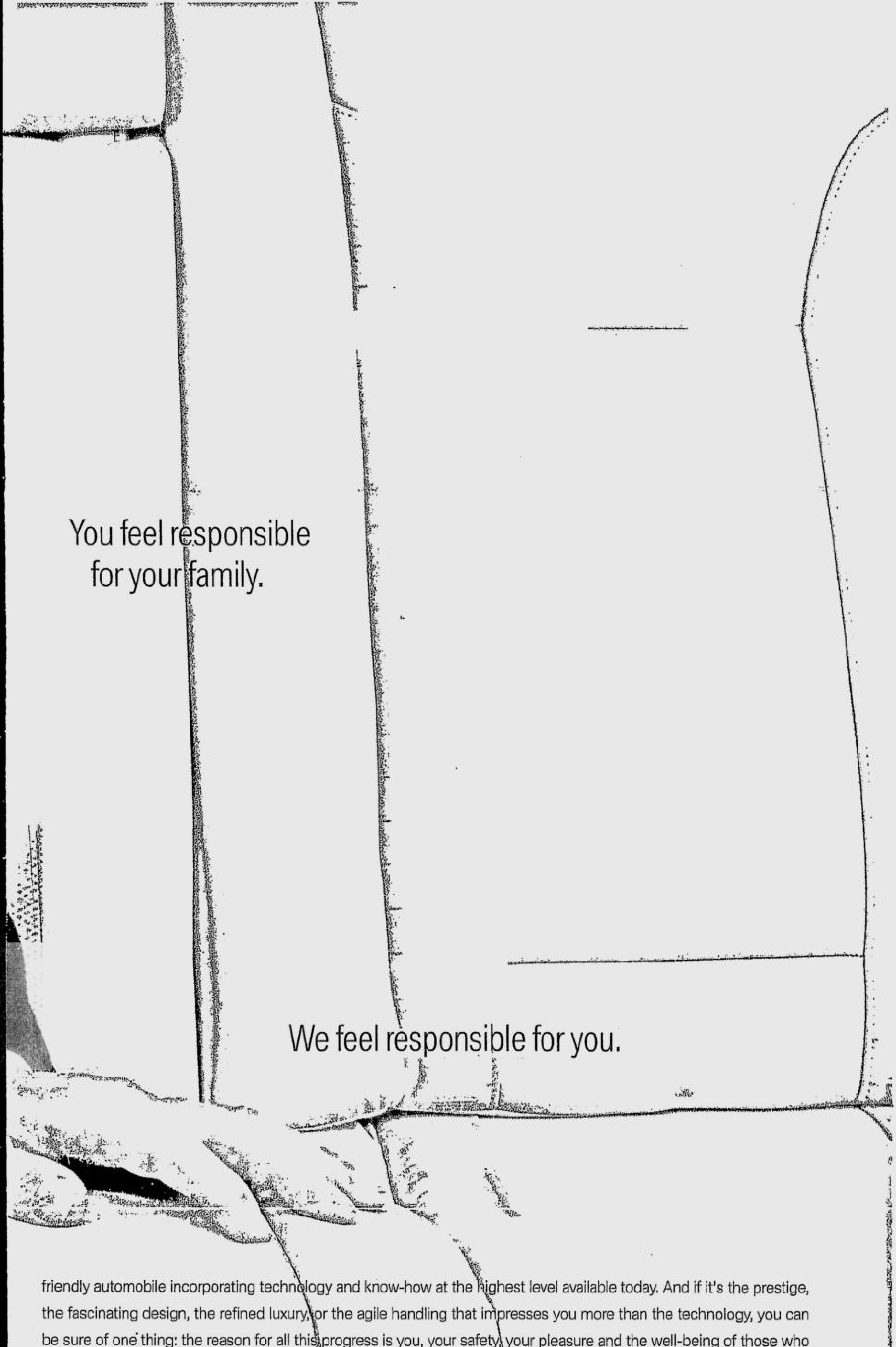
CAMDESSUS visits the AIM-World Bank Global Distance Learning Center and Knowledge for Development Center as AIM President Roberto F. de Ocampo looks on.

MICHEL Camdessus discusses an issue with former President Fidel V. Ramos.


BUSINESS leaders Washington SyCip and Ramon del Rosario Sr.

CHEL CAMDESSUS
MICHEL Camdessus (center) with AIM President Roberto F. de Ocampo (left) and Felixberto Bustos Jr. (right), executive director of the Gov. Jose B. Fernandez Jr. Center for Banking and Finance.

Felixberto Bustos Jr., of the AIM Dean of the Institute Nieves R. Confesor, Michel Camdessus and AIM President Roberto F. de Ocampo.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- Fully landscaped garden w/ piedra stone

To see is to appreciate!
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SUNRISE
San Mateo, Rizal
50m^2 up
nr Quezon City
2BR 1TB w/carport
P950T - up
HOMES
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Antipolo City
Two-storey Town house
P1.05M - up
PLACE
Brookside Hills,
Cainta, Rizal
Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twnhse
2BR, 2TB with carport
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HILLS
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Lots Overlooking
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Only 20% DP Bal. 5 yrs.
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HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

Brd Nw DUPLEX William St. Carmel 3 nr. T.Sora Avenue T-9248118 & 4548139

CORINTHIAN FRONT PARK VERY WELL KEPT&ELEGANT 4BR+DEN CALL 6337601-03

★St. Ignatius Vill,cor lot 6br 4tb P14M 09192221766

Katipunan QC 400sm Near Miriam Ateneo UP Furnsh New Renovte P25M T532-2930

NEW 3 STOREY TOWNHOUSE D. TUAZON Q.C. 411m^2 T7342503 / 04 (MON-SAT)

RIZAL

NR ORTIGAS AVE EXT
ALG RIDGMONT AVE 180M²
RIDGMONT EXECUTIVE VIL
P6T/M² 9488240 / 9334971

Vermont Park Antipolo 239m^2 2sty 5BR w/ bathtub attic 2aircon L340 tel grge P5M 7801821 0919-5764056 welcome agents

SAN JUAN

★ Greenhills West ★
Infront Xavier LA=728 FA=600 Res. / Comm'l w/ Good Business 5 Story Bldg. Allow 722-1632

OTHER PROVINCIAL

TAGAYTAY VACATION HOUSE VACANT LOT 6,500m^2 T 7342503 / 04 (MON-SAT)

CAVITE

LA MEDITERRANEA 2Stry 3Bdrm 1T&B LA110m^2 FA80m^2 P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

LAGUNA

Laguna Bel Air-No down I 3/4Br 35%disct T890-0628

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

SAN JUAN

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay
House & Lot
- LA 217 sqm FA 98 sqm
- 3 Bedrooms
- Ready for Occupancy
- Walking distance from Tagaytay Rotonda
- Only P25K to reserve
- DP 6 mos. to pay

Lot Only
- Min. Area 171 sqm
- No downpayment
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With s pool, clubhouse
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HOUSE & LOT

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ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m^2 P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

ALFONSO SUBD. STA ROSA P900,000 Tel# 844-0802

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

AMORSOLO 1BR FURN 44M² P2.5M 7768507 09103466995

AYALA WEST
1,2,3BR BNew 0916-7022867

MANILA

Nr UST P3.6M 136FA 6453731

Taft Avenue Near La Salle 1.3M FF 1BR 0919-6781363

MANDALUYONG

H-LANDS 2.3M BARGAIN 58.23M² NEW RUSH RFO 578-0030

PARANAQUE

1BRM 2FL 64SQM BAL/VIEW P'HSE 1.4M NEG 844-6017

•PALM GROVE P4.6M 3BR RFO Japan St B.Living 26% Off Cash •BELLA VILLA PG 2M 3BR RFO Merville w/Amenities 41%Off Rent 2 Own T0916-8594925

QUEZON CITY

2-storey condo 81m^2 cor Gilmore, N. Domingo 3.5M 410-2462, 0917-8418152-3

Cubao Only 10%DP No Int FREE Cel Promo 0917-8160250

Eastwood City Libis 1-3 BR Studio Call 0917-5218338

FA 200m^2 nr UP P2M 9126847

Nr Ateneo 1.8M 80m^2 3BR 3TB Pkg Slot 09196781363

RESD'L CONDO IN EASTWOOD CITY LIBIS 0917-5218338

SAN JUAN

LE GRAN GHILLS 1BR/2BR Nico View •809-1322/26•

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FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

FOR SALE

Fishpond for sale covering 133.2584 hectares with a fishpond lease agreement no. 425 located at Barrio Salhag, Rosario, Northern Samar, ask for details from:

Ms. Sally F. Bañga
Davao City
Tel. No. (085) 221-1140

Ms. Arlynn A. Torres
Makati City
Tel. No. (02) 817-0784/893-0487

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Also very near Mkti &
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As low as P1.5M

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SERVICED VACATION
RESIDENCES
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Verna - 635-4471
Cidro - 0919-5982923
Alice - 0917-3239202
Tess - 365-0425

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m^2 P3,703/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 25

RUSH SALE CLEAN TITLE
VACANT LOT 119SQM
BF HOMES CALOOCAN CITY
P450T NEGO DIRECT BUYER
OWNER LEAVING 926-1658

MARIKINA

LAMUAN MKNA 143SQM P750TH CALL 933-0002

MUNTINLUPA

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 300m^2 fenced P3,833/m^2 Vic Gigle 8903461 loc 25/27

PARANAQUE

NR PARANAQUE
CITY HALL 300M²
SAN ANTONIO AVE.
REYES 4260690 / 2417801

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m P4,054/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

CINCO HERMANOS 713 SQM 0917-4303478 OR 437-9371

Filinvest II nr gate elev cor 274sqm 0918-3611196

• PRIME NEW MLA.
850-3000m^2 0917-5320224 DBO

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

LOT

QUEZON CITY

Tierra Pura 450m2 931-4946

RIZAL

207 sqm @ 9T/sqm Near Sta Lucia & Robinson Mall Cainta Call Emil 533-5730

Antipolo 1.6M 737m^2 7443465

ANTIPOLO MISSION HILL ST. MONICA MS. CO 6339326

SAN JUAN

• N/E G-Hills!
32T/m^2 0917-5320224 DBO

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m^2 P2,284/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

TAGAYTAY VIEW LOTS-300m^2 up w/ club & golf memb 5yrs No DP INT. FREE 09175022722

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

CAVITE

RUSH SALE!!!
200 sqm. lot Athena Classique Imus call 8736597

LAGUNA

MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m^2 P3,500/m Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m LA240m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PROVINCIAL

LILIW 208m^2 0919-6290954

OFFICE SPACE

PDAF Bldg. Buendia Mktl 93sqm 113sqm 437sqm Good Rent negotiable Tel# 8952009 / 8952010

BUSINESS SPACE

Sta. Cruz Mla, Parlor 2339187

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PLARIDEL,BULACAN 2HA OR 1501SQM W/MANGO TREES BENG 9314466 OR 9124573

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1.3HA RICEFIELD CANAMAN CAM.SUR 6460768 PERLA

★ZAMBALES Mango Farm 7,9,10,30,68has 09192221766

★ZAMBALES nr hway 2.7M 100mango trees 09192221766

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m^2 P250/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Bings 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m^2 P186/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

★SUBIC back of CT Hall 46has.@200/m^2 09192221766

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Pansol Hot Spring priv 7870543

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

PASAY ROAD
GF comm'l space @ 100m^2 Cedar Exec Bldg. I 1006 Pasay Road Mktl opposite Anson's Emporium Call 3726625-28 loc. 10

MANILA

G.Tuazon,Sampaloc 103m^2 Kol Iya 8183185(M-F 9-5pm) 09178370438

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MANDALUYONG

Resdl-2BR/Ofc Comml-1BR Near City Hall • T233-8432

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

Loyola Hts 2sty 3BR3TB 2tel 10car grge garden 9208858

OTHER AREAS

4RENT TAGAYTAY House & Lot 368sqm nr. Mahogany Market 02-8951580 Terry

BAGUIO

2BR BAGUIO FF 9122304

CONDO/TWNHSE

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ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW
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0917-7940078

BNEW MKTI RES CONDO
WEST OF AYALA
Gil Puyat Ave. Cor. Ayala
37-140 sqm 11K-50K
759-4802•752-2580

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati
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CONDO 1BR W /PRKNG JOAN P10,800 BANGKAL 889-1797

NEW STUDIO , Coml , 2BR 7.5T 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418

MANILA

BURGUNDY WESTBAY TOWER 1BR 50sqm furnished near La Salle 8434930

MANDALUYONG

1BR PARAGON PLZA 9125847

Pioneer Hilands Studio Vida@8431626 No Agents

PARANAQUE

BF P'que 2 Bdrm
2 T&B 12T 8071133

Condo4Rent United Hills Vill 2BR 1T&B Call:Jul 8737631

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Meralco Ave., Pasig City Brand New, 2BR•2½ Baths•1 Maid's Room w/separate Bath•Semi-Furnished w/ Parking 850-9369

RENAISSANCE 3000
2&3BR CALL 8963038 OR
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QUEZON CITY

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CUBAO 1BR P7,000
0918-9040772 • 9113125

NEW MLA NR ST PAUL 3BR
200M² P22T NEW 4578041

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

1BR Apt TBK Lady's 5T 8991321

MANILA

PENTHOUSE 13TH STUDIO 6.5T KUNDIMAN SAMP NEW 7405825

Sta. Mesa 2Stry • 715-4506

Sta. Mesa 2sty 7157132

Studio Fully Furn Malate nr DLSU ST. SCHO, PGH, PWU 523-5465

QUEZON CITY

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2br nr Proj4 Aurora Blvd 9123901

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Ike or Flor 718-0089

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Studio Mkt 8950134/8907136

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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00 Mits. Adventure Sport 2.5 Dsl. M/T, Fully Loaded w/ Accessories, A1 Condition, 50,807 kms., Php 495T

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FORD

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2% w/oTaking Car 8870490

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2% w/oTaking Car 7228943

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

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Draftsman, Landscape Architect, Secretary Flower Arranger Store Manager 8432596

FEMALE ENCODERS / OFC STAFF 896-5962 Interview April 14, 1PM

FLORIST (artificial)Saleslady Driver 9512413/09178920765

★ DIRECT HIRE OFC STAFF★ 18-45 w/wo/ Exp. Start Asap coll lvl/grad 9121488 ANGEL

HRD STAF 09192535623 HELEN

HRD STF 09167054572 ECHO

HRD/SEC 09168259974 SHE

HRDSTF LEAH 09193352395 LEAH

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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CALL : 844-4389 (fax phone) Bio-data necessary
FEE : Php 1,000.00

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OFC STF 09166248201 JEN

OFC STF 09166248201 JEN

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MARKETING MANAGER
(for money transfer services)

An expanding leader in the country's Non-Bank Financial Intermediary services is urgently in need for a Marketing Manager with the following qualifications:

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- Bachelor's degree holder in Marketing, Mass Com. or a similar course
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- Highly proficient in computers
- Very familiar with researching online
- Can work quick and meet deadlines
- Patient and thorough with details
- Experience in marketing research
- Organized and systematic

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

Human Resources Department
11th Floor, Heart Tower
108 Valero Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City
Tel. No. 8943969/8137004 to 07

NOTICE

SUSAN V. PACALDO
is no longer connected with us
effective September 17, 2002

COMGLASCO CORPORATION
Unit 5 & 6 Balaga Bldg., Brgy. Longos
Malolos Bulacan

(PDI – April 13, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following persons are hereby notified of their overdue payments on their installments for the purchase of the following real estate properties, namely:

NAME	PROPERTY	PAYMENT(S) DUE
Felegunda Ascano	Neopolitan, PVII B178 L9 TCT# 37684	P 590,033.14
Ma. Dulce Arriola	Neopolitan, VIII B86 L25 TCT# 37468	1,633,572.72
Robert Ting / Lorena Angeles Serrano	Neopolitan, PVI B168 L102 TCT# 37540	1,247,807.07

The above-named-persons are hereby given a grace period of two (2) months from publication of this notice within which to pay the above mentioned sums to DBH Development Corporation at the 6th Floor, Renaissance Tower D, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Failure to so pay the above amounts shall result in the cancellation of the Contracts to Sell by DBH Development Corporation.

(PDI - Apr. 13, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas,
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. GOP/03-DSWD-001

1. The Department of Social Welfare and Development, a national government agency, through its Bids and Awards Committee-1 (BAC-1) is inviting licensed suppliers/bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY and DELIVERY OF OFFICE UNIFORMS (MATERIALS ONLY) OF DSWD OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**.
2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from *Ms. Maricris Jacinto*, BAC Secretariat, Property and Supply Division, 2nd Floor, DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone nos. (632) 9318161, (632) 9318101 to 07 local 125, and fax no. (632) 9316146.
3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon the submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00/set.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, manager's check, cashier's or certified check valid for 120 days and must be delivered to the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD Building on or before 9:00 a.m. of **May 7, 2003**.
5. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **April 24, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. to be held at the address indicated in paragraph 4.
6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative(s) who choose to attend at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Late bids will not be accepted.

DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as maybe considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) RHODA F. YAP
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, BAC-I

(PDI - Apr. 6 & 13, 2003)

Dusit Hotel Nikko
MANILA - PHILIPPINES

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PRIME COMMERCIAL AREA

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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370
KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342
MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

Our Company, **ISON INFOSYSTEM**, a pioneer in specialized solutions for corporate and government and with international affiliates, is looking for SELF-DRIVEN, CREATIVE and DYNAMIC PROFESSIONALS who can be a part of our fast growing team.

We offer attractive compensation package with opportunity to travel abroad to qualified applicants for the following positions:

URGENT OPENINGS / FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS / INFORMATION ASSISTANTS & CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER / OFFICER

- ☐ Excellent Oral and Written Communication Skills
- ☐ With pleasing personality
- ☐ For Manager: at least 3 years managerial experience

PROJECT MANAGERS

- ☐ Excellent Oral and Written Communication Skills
- ☐ At least 3 years project management experience
- ☐ Excellent leadership skills and pleasing personality

ENCODERS

- ☐ With I.T. Background preferred

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

- ☐ With pleasing personality
- ☐ Computer literate

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR / SENIOR DATABASE PROGRAMMERS

- ☐ At least 2 years experience
- ☐ Proficiency in JAVA, J2EE, Server lets, JAVA Beans
- ☐ Working knowledge in:
  - JAVA, ASP, XML, J2EE, Server lets, JAVA Beans
  - Database - Preferably in DB2
  - OS - NT, LINUX, UNIX

WEB DESIGNER / WEB DEVELOPERS

- ☐ Proficient in web applications (MACROMEDIA, JAVA Script)
- ☐ Knowledgeable in web languages (HTML, PHTML, ASP)
- ☐ Fast learner, friendly and with 2 years experience

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- ☐ Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw and other graphic designing software
- ☐ Knowledgeable in the use of graphics and web programs such as Macromedia Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, etc.
- ☐ Fast learner, friendly and with at least 2 years experience

SYSTEM ANALYST

- ☐ Graduate of Computer Science / Computer Engineering or related courses
- ☐ Knowledge in Database Administration (preferably DB2) and Programming, E-Commerce and M-Commerce
- ☐ At least 3 years relevant work experience in the following applications:
  - JAVA, SQL, Visual Basic, Web Development, ASP, Windows Operating System

SALES AND MARKETING EXECUTIVES & (1) MANAGER

- ☐ At least 1 year experience in Sales and Marketing; with Advertising experience preferred; for Manager - at least 3 years experience
- ☐ Excellent Oral and Written Communication Skills
- ☐ Can write proposals, reports, letters and other marketing materials
- ☐ With pleasing personality
- ☐ With IT background preferred

PURCHASERS

- ☐ With at least 2 years experience gained in an IT / Computer Company
- ☐ Computer literate in Hardware, Software and Accessories

Please mail or send or e-mail your resumé and other credentials to:

ISON INFOSYSTEMS, INC.
2/F I.T. Development Center
4585 Baron Street corner Montojo Street, Tejeros Makati City
Tel. no. 895-4505; 895-3410 email: jps@go2ph.net

AUCTION

IMPORTED FACTORY CONSUMABLES; OFFICE/STORAGE CONTAINERS; ELECTRICAL; OFFICE FURNITURE/EQUIPMENT; MISCELLANEOUS, ETC.

IN OVER 300 LOTS INCLUDING:-

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT - LINSCO 225KVA Transformer; (8) LIEBERT Power Conditioners; Asstd Flood Lights; Industrial Lights; Asstd. Junction Boxes; Large Cap Electrical Panel Boards, Switching Centres; Steel Conduits; Electric Cable; HUBBEL Electrical Outlets/Covers, etc.
VALVES/PNEUMATIC FITTINGS - DAWYER Floor Meters; PARKER Air Filters; Asstd. Pressure Regulators, OMATIC/ASAHI/RITZ/APOLLO Valves; HAYWARD Strainers; Asstd. SWAGELOCK Pneumatic Fittings; GEO FISHER Pneumatic Valves & Fittings; KINETICS Gas Stick Type Air Filters; Asstd. Pressure Gauges; PVC Connectors, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - Aluminum Pole Drops; Fan Blowers; Aluminum Channels; Asstd Pipe/Ductings; GYPSON Board, Acoustic Ceiling Panels w/ Supports; Stainless Steel Plate; Asstd. Drive Belts, Asstd Filter Elements; Diesel Tank; Aluminum Screen, Steel Racks; (3) Cooling Towers; 40' / 20' Storage Containers; 40' / 20' Office/Storage Containers; WESTINGHOUSE Refrigerator, Asstd. Window/ Split Type Air Conditioners, STAR DUST Safety Lamps, etc.
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ON: TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2003 – 10 30AM
ON VIEW: MONDAY 21ST APRIL 2003 FROM 9 00AM TO 5 00PM & MORNING OF SALE DAYS
AT: FCT AREA, INTEL TECH PHILIPPINES INC GATEWAY BUSINESS PARK, BRGY JAVALERA, GENERAL TRIAS 4107 CAVITE, PHILIPPINES
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: (PHP20 000) UPON REGISTRATION

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
Telefax: 633-93-42; Direct Line: 631-96-40; Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2007/2221

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages:

Package	Description	Approved Budget
1	Printing and Delivery of International Growth Tables and Charts	P2,000,000.00
2	Printing and Delivery of Individual Health Cards	P2,250,000.00

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **April 15-May 5, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.***

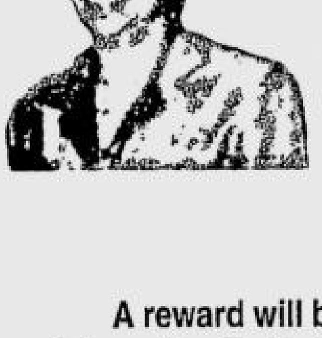
A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 5, 2003**, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on May 19, 2003 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI-April 13 & 20, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



A warrant of arrest was issued by the Regional Trial Court of Lucena City against **MELITA CHUA TADIOSA** whose picture appears here. Should you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Melita Chua Tadiosa, please contact Mr. Tony Aguirre thru cellphone number **0917-4721945 or (02) 8988000 loc. 2014.**

A reward will be given for any information that will lead to her arrest.

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RIZALINA RAZ FELICISIMO

Rizalina "Saling" Felicisimo joined the Lord on April 3, 2003. She was born the fifteen of sixteen children to Eulalio and Octabela Raz on November 14, 1917 in Banga, Aklan, Philippines. After graduating from Philippine General Hospital, School of Nursing in 1939, she joined the hospital's medical department as a staff nurse.

On January 6, 1940, Saling married Dr. Bienvenido Alona, Sr., a dentist, and had three children. Her husband, a member of the Philippine Army who survived the infamous Death March, died of cerebral malaria shortly after being released as a prisoner of war on September 3, 1944. She went to Okinawa as a replacement nurse for the U.S. Army where she subsequently married U.S. Army Lt. Jose Felicisimo and had one son.

In 1955, Saling and her youngest son immigrated to the U.S. and was later joined in 1959 by her husband and three children. Saling worked at Sunny Acres Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio before moving to West Los Angeles where she worked as a private duty nurse for such patients as Mary Pickford, Hedy Lamarr, Betty Grable and Ivy Baker, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

Retired in 1984, Saling was active at Ellinwood Malate Church in Manila and frequently traveled to the Philippines and the Far East. A trip to Israel with her eldest son, fulfilled a lifelong dream.

Saling is survived by her youngest brother, **Felimon Raz**; four children, **Marylou Alona Tom**, **Bienvenido Alona, Jr.**, **Terry Alona Ampaya**, and **Emmanuel Felicisimo**; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Memorial Service will be held at St. Peter by the Sea on Saturday, April 12, 2003 at 11:00 AM, 6410 Palos Verdes Drive South, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA Tel # 310 377-6882.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made payable to the University of the Philippines, College of Nursing (for Rizalina Raz Felicisimo Faculty Fund and a Library in Banga, Aklan).
Donations should be mailed to Marylou Tom:
28627 Seamount Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.

We want to express our thanks to everyone for all their support, prayers and contributions.

Pilar Yu Concon

Of Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
and Chicago, Illinois, USA

Devoted Wife of the late **Simplicio R. Concon**,
Beloved Mother of **Marie & Rene Zamora**,
and **Juliet Concon**;
Loving Grandmother of **Renee Joy & Galo**,
Raoul Paolo & Emma, and **Rizzia Jan Marie**;
Caring Great-grandmother of **Micaela, Paoline and Miguel.**

Peacefully joined her Creator
on March 25, 2003 at the age of 96.

Viewing of her remains was held last March 27, 2003
at Drake & Son Funeral Home, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
Funeral Mass was held last March 28, 2003 at 11:00 AM at the Church of St. Ita in Chicago, Illinois, USA.
Interment was also held last March 28, 2003 at Calvary Cemetery in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

May we request those whose lives she has touched
to pray for her eternal repose.
May her memory live in our hearts forever.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
- **MESSAGE OF THANKS**
- **REQUIEMS** • **DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
- **FREE OBIT DESIGN**

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

In Loving Memory

On the **Eight Death Anniversary** of

CONCEPCION I. TADURAN

(14 December 1934 - 13 April 1995)

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

1.	Parish of the Presentation of the Child Jesus, BF Homes, Parañaque City	6:00 AM
2.	Parish of Jesus the Divine Healer, Tahanan Village	6:30 AM
3.	St. Benedict's College Chapel, Alabang Hills Subdivision	7:00 AM
4.	Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord, SM Megamall	12:15 PM
5.	Parish of the Presentation of the Child Jesus, BF Homes, Parañaque City	7:00 PM

We request the pious reader to join us in our prayers
for the eternal repose of our beloved's soul.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

From the family of the late

CARMEN ABUNDO ARCILLA

November 11, 1926 – April 03, 2003
of Virac, Catanduanes

Her spouse, **Solon** (†); children **Asena** and **Rody**, **Belen**, **Carlo**, **Debra** and **Kel**, **Jose Eziel** and **Phannie**; grandchildren **Joseph** and **Francis**, **Lance** and **Sarajae**, **Joshua**, **Jared** and **Samantha**; siblings **Rafael** and **Osita**, **Marino** (†) and **Filipinas**, **Salome** and **Apolinario**, **Rosalinda** (†) and **Reynaldo**, **Alicia** and **Eulogio, Jr.**; nephews and nieces and all other relatives and friends.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who condoled with them during their bereavement, for their prayers, Masses offered, kind presence, warm words of comfort, shared memories of the deceased and tokens of concern for those she left behind. May her soul and the souls of the dearly departed rest in peace!

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ATTY. GREGORIO A. SAN AGUSTIN

who joined the Lord on April 6, 2003

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses, prayers & flowers, visited and kept vigil joined us in burial rites and in one way or another condoled with us and showed love and concern and in our time of bereavement.

RODOLFO Q. DE LARA

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on April 10, 2003 at the age of 62.

His body lies in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Davao City.

Date of interment at the Davao Memorial Park will be announced later.

VENERANDA PANGAN SAÑGA

of Candaba, Pampanga

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 12, 2003 at the age of 87.

Her beloved husband **FELICIANO** (†); sister **JUSTINA**; children **JOSEFINA** (†), **MANUEL** (†) and **NARCISA** vda. de **ESPIRITU**; grandchildren; great grandchildren; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be announced later.

"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Themistocles Jacob Lucila, Sr.

of DARAGA, ALBAY, DIED IN THE GRACE OF OUR LORD
ON APRIL 9, 2003 AT THE AGE OF 88.

HIS LOVING WIFE, **BASILISA** (†); *His children* **Delia & Eulogio Alejo**, **Noli & Adelina**, **Themistocles, Jr. & Annie**; *His grandchildren* **Angeli**, **Roseli & Gregorio Ante**, **Carlo Vincent**, **Margi & Neil Catajay**, **Reena & Rene Maligaya**, **Kristine & Krister Chua**, **Noli Jr. and Shaila May**; *Sisters* **Sr. Natividad O.S.B.**, **Leonor** (†) and **Sis. Andrea O.P.** (†); brothers and sisters-in-law, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 1979 Velasco St., Phase 1, Doña Maria Subd., Tagas, Daraga, Albay.

Interment will be on Monday, April 14, 2003 at the Daraga Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Rodolfo Quiaoit de Lara, Sr.

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 10, 2003
at the age of 62.

His bereaved wife **LINDA**; children **BONG** and **MALU**, **DENNIS** and **PIE**, **RJ** and **MYLA**, **JOLIT** and **YVETTE**, and **TRIKKI**; grandchildren **DAVE**, **KYRA**, **NINA**, **ELLA**, **RIA** and **MICO**; brother **BOBBY**; sisters-in-law **SALUD & HELEN**; nephew and nieces **ANDRE**, **ANGEL**, **PAMELA** and **RAYMOND**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel in Magallanes Village and will be transferred to Davao City on Saturday, April 12, 2003 for interment at a later date.

MARIA CADIENTE

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on April 10, 2003 at the age of 81.

Her bereaved children **ELSA & RUDY CACALDA**, **TERESA "LINA" & PHILIP LLANES**; grandchildren **JOSEPH**, **FRANCIS**, **CARESS**, **CHRIS & CARLO**, sisters **MARCELLA**, **LOURDES & SEBASTIAN GURAT**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be announced later.

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 28, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
CONTRACT NO.: Sp02.CMIP.Vw-0358

1. The ***National Power Corporation (NPC)*** has received a loan from the ***Miyazawa Funds*** for ***Cebu-Mactan Interconnection Project*** and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) GIS Substation including Protection & Communication Systems and Underground Power & Fiber Optic Cables.***
2. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)*** administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Schedule I - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138/69 kV GIS & Conventional Outdoor Substation Equipment including Protection & Communication Systems for Mandaue S/S, Mactan S/S & Banilad S/S Expansion

   Schedule II - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138 kV Underground XLPE Power Cables & Fiber Optic Cables
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel./Fax Number: 921-2308.***
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting March 28, 2003 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***fifty-five thousand pesos (Php 55,000.00).***
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Schedule I - Three Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty US dollars (US$374,320)

   Schedule II - Two Hundred Sixty Thousand and Forty US dollars (US$260,040)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on July 15, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for each schedule is 540 calendar days.
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - Apr. 12, 13 & 15, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Office of the Secretary

RE-INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. ICHSP-2003-004HP

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Health has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Integrated Community Health Services Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Local Area Network Equipment to ICHSP Pilot and Replication Provinces.
2. The Department of Health, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of 10 lots of local area network equipment for 10 hospitals in the provinces of Ifugao; Mountain Province; Oriental Mindoro; Antique, Capiz; Davao del Norte; Agusan del Sur; Kalinga, Palawan; and Guimaras.

   The total quantity of equipment that comprise the procurement is as follows:

Name of Goods or Related Services	Quantity	Unit
High-end Workstation	10	units
Workstation	82	units
Uninterruptible Power Supply, 2 KVA	7	units
Uninterruptible Power Supply, 750 VA	85	units
12-Port Manage Network Switch	23	units
Dot Matrix Printer	77	units
Network Cabling	10	lots
Installation, testing and commissioning	10	lots

3. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	April 8 to May 9, 2003	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	CHDs and DOH Central Office (see address below)
Pre-Bid Conference	April 28, 2003	9:00 a.m.	Materials Management Division Conference Room, Bldg. No. 25, San Lazaro Compound, DOH, Manila
Deadline for Submission of Bids	May 9, 2003	9:00 a.m.	CHDs or DOH Central Office (see address below)
Opening of Bids	May 13, 2003	9:01 a.m.	Materials Management Division Conference Room, Bldg. No. 25, San Lazaro Compound, DOH, Manila

4. International Shopping will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
5. A bidder must bid for any lot, combination of lots or all lots, that is, bid for all the required items and required quantity in any lot.
6. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Document at any of the following addresses:

DOH-Central Office:
COBAC Secretariat
Procurement and Logistics Service
Bldg. 25, San Lazaro Compound
Department of Health
Sta. Cruz, Manila

Cordillera Administrative Region:
The Director
Center for Health Development – CAR
BGHMC Compound
2600 Baguio City

Western Visayas:
The Director
Center for Health Development
– Western Visayas
5000 Mandurriao, Iloilo City

Southern Mindanao:
The Director
Center for Health Development
– Southern Mindanao
J.P. Laurel Avenue
8000 Bajada, Davao City

CARAGA:
The Director
Center for Health Development
– CARAGA
Pizarro St. corner Narra Road
8600 Butuan City

7. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders at the addresses above or on submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (US$100.00) plus mailing fee of US$50 in the form of bank draft. Documents for overseas delivery shall be sent by surface mail or courier. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
8. Bids must be delivered to the following address or any of the Centers for Health Development in the above address on or before the scheduled deadline of submission of bids.

The Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Health
Ground Floor, Building No. 3, Rizal Avenue, Manila

9. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the Total Bid Price. Prior to the Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the scheduled date at the venue above.
10. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
11. In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference scheme will be applied in accordance with the provision stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
12. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI-April 6 & 13, 2003)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 28, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
CONTRACT NO.: Sp00.SMSRTL.Lw.-0304

1. The ***National Power Corporation (NPC)*** has received a loan from the ***Miyazawa Funds*** in Japanese Yen currency, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for ***Furnishing, Delivery of Transmission Line Materials and Construction of San Manuel - San Roque 230kV DC/ST Transmission Line Project on Turn Key Basis.***
2. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)***, administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Furnishing, Delivery of Transmission Line Materials and Construction of San Manuel - San Roque 230kV DC/ST Transmission Line Project On Turnkey Basis (Sp00.SMSRTL.Lw-0304).
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel. No.: 922-0401, Fax No.: 921-2308.***
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting **April 4, 2003** upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00).***
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance to the specification. If the bidders deem necessary, he may submit a supplementary price proposal that only contain the changes in price resulting from the changes in the technical proposal. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of ***Sixty Six Thousand and Two Hundred Fifty US Dollars ($66,250.00)***. The bid security must be included with the technical proposal. The deadline for the submission bids will be on ***June 4, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.*** at the aforementioned address. Late submission will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - Apr. 12, 13, 15 & 20, 2003)

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM

A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1596 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY / PREQUALIFICATION AND ENTER INTO INDEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACTS (IQC)

1. The Philippines has received a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to fund the cost of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program (the Project). A portion of the proceeds of this grant will be used for the construction of Community Infrastructure Program (CIP) subprojects and Mid-Scale Infrastructure Program (MSIP) subprojects for which this Invitation for Prequalification is being issued. The GEM Project Management Office (GEM-PMO) based in Davao City will implement these subprojects.
2. The subprojects will be located primarily in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as well as conflict-affected areas of Mindanao and will include various components in the port, water supply, roads and bridges, irrigation, drainage and flood control, and general civil works categories. Individual construction contract costs will range in value from PhP 500 thousand up to PhP 1.5 million for CIP subprojects and PhP 20 million up to PhP 50 million for MSIP subprojects.
3. In relation to the Designing requirements for these subprojects various engineering studies need to be conducted. This invitation to apply for eligibility/prequalification is issued for the conduct of these studies.
4. Interested contractors will be prequalified for different categories based on their previous experience. For prequalification purposes, the works will be divided into the following Groups based on the desired level of precision of the studies:
   - **A. Topographic Survey / Hydrographic Surveys (Civil Works Projects) with HIGH complexity (contracts amounting to more than PhP 200,000)**
   - **B. Topographic Survey / Hydrographic Surveys (Civil Works Projects) with LOW complexity (contracts amounting to less than PhP 200,000)**
   - **C. Geotechnical Investigations with HIGH complexity (contracts amounting to more than PhP 100,000)**
   - **D. Geotechnical Investigations with LOW complexity (contracts amounting to less than PhP 100,000)**
   - **E. Water Supply Projects tests (Water Quality, discharge rate, etc.)**
5. Firms will be evaluated and ranked based on the following criteria:
   - i. Company Experience
   - ii. Competency of Technical Personnel
   - iii. Equipment / Testing Laboratory Inventory
6. The top three ranked firms from each of the categories will be awarded Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQC) with minimum and maximum contract amounts to be negotiated with the winning firms. Job or delivery orders will be issued to the winning firms as studies become necessary. Contract costs will be based on pre-negotiated unit and mobilization costs. The IQC will be valid until the contract ceiling cost is reached or when the contract duration expires.
7. Prequalification is open to licensed/registered firms (applicable to each group and registered through SEC for corporations or DTI for entrepreneurs) from the Philippines. Applications may be made for one or more of the above groups, for consortium or large companies with varied specializations or services.
8. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents, including the requirements for the company profile and short technical proposal, at the following locations:

Office of the Chief of Party, Project Management Office
Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program
2nd Floor, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave.,
Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines
Tel (63-82) 225-1589, Fax (63-82) 225-1479
Email gem@mindanao.org

Cotabato City Office
4/F Elena V. Co Bldg., Don Rufino Alonzo St.,
Cotabato City 9600, Philippines
Tel (63-64) 421-4166
Fax (63-64) 421-1389
Email gemcm@mozcom.com

Manila Office
c/o The Louis Berger Group, Inc.
Unit 3, 12/F ExportBank Plaza
Sen. Gil Puyat, cor. Chino Roces Avenues
Makati City 1200 Philippines
Tel (63-2) 812-1847 Fax (63-2) 818-6990
Email gemmkati@mozcom.com

Zamboanga City Office
4/F VH Wee Building, Veterans Ave.,
Zamboanga City 7000, Philippines
Tel (63-62) 992-3404 to 06
Fax (63-62) 992-3392
Email gemzam@zambo.i-next.net

9. The documents, which will be made available from April 14-23, 2003, include the following:
   - Required format and content of Company Profile
   - Terms of Reference for the various required studies (acquire as needed)
   - Terms of Reference and Conditions of the IQC Type of Contracts
   - Indicative locations of subprojects
   - Other Requirements

5. "Prequalification conferences" will be held only to answer clarificatory questions regarding the above documents for Manila-based firms on April 21, 2003, 9-11 AM at the ExportBank Business Center, 24th Floor, ExportBank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Chino Roces Avenues, and for Mindanao-based firms on April 23, 2003, 9-11 AM at the GEM PMO Office at the 2nd Floor, Ladislawa 1 Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City.
6. Interested companies must submit a letter of intent to participate in the prequalification, to be submitted at the respective area offices where the documents were obtained. All technical inquiries/clarifications must be directed to **Rhett de Guzman of the Infrastructure Design and Construction Supervision Group**, and contract-related inquiries to **Renato D. Galang of the Contracts Group**, at the GEM PMO in Davao City.
7. Application for prequalification must be submitted not later than **3:00 PM, April 28, 2003 at the GEM PMO office in Davao City**. Applications may be submitted personally or by courier and received and stamped by our guards not later than the specified deadline and time.
8. GEM reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
9. GEM will advise the applicants of the results of their application in due course.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (COBAC)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category "D and C" and registration of "Small B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the projects:

1. Repair/ Renovation of Budget Office, Building No. 2, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
2. Repair/ Renovation of Building No. 4, DOH Compound, Manila.
3. Repair/ Rewiring of Records Section, IMS Office, DOH Compound, Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3
1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB license and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License)	April 21-22, 2003	April 21-22, 2003	April 21-22, 2003
2. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility documents	April 30, 2003	April 30, 2003	April 30, 2003
3. Posting of eligible contractors	May 7, 2003	May 7, 2003	May 7, 2003
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	May 12 & 13, 2003	May 12 & 13, 2003	May 12 & 13, 2003
5. Pre-bid Conference	10:00 AM May 20, 2003	2:00 PM May 20, 2003	10:00 AM May 21, 2003
6. Submission of Bids (Deadline)	10:00 AM June 11, 2003	2:00 PM June 11, 2003	10:00 AM June 13, 2003
7. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM June 11, 2003	2:00 PM June 11, 2003	10:00 AM June 13, 2003

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairman, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P2,000.00) for Project 1 and 2 and ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS ONLY (P1,250.00) for Project 3.

DOH-COBAC reserve the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by DOH-COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government.

DOH -COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) ASEC. ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D. MPH
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – April 13 & 20, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)
Science Garden Complex, Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City 1104

08 April 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bidding Date : May 15, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference : May 6, 2003
(Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PAGASA Building, 2:00 p.m.)

1. **Janitorial Services**
2. **Security Services**
3. **Canteen Operation**
4. **Desktop Computer**
5. **Meteorological Balloons**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using the TWO-ENVELOP SYSTEM, to be opened publicly at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PAGASA Building, Science Garden Complex, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City on **15 May 2003** at 2:00 o'clock p.m.

Checklist of bid requirements will be issued at the Administrative Division, 3rd Floor, PAGASA Building, Science Garden Complex, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the company's TIN on **April 14, 2003**.

Bidding documents will be issued by the BAC Secretariat from **April 28 to May 6, 2003** at the Administrative Division, 3rd Floor, PAGASA Building to those parties who applied and considered eligible to participate in the bidding.

Only eligible bidders shall be invited to the Opening of Bids on **May 15, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the 2nd Floor Conference room, PAGASA Building, Science Garden Complex, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids should be accompanied by a 2.5% Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or GSIS Bond, callable on demand within 120 days from the bidding date.

All inquiries concerning this invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman, PAGASA-BAC.

The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason of its own, waive any formality therein when necessary and to accept complying offer considered most advantageous tot he government.

(Sgd.) BERNARDO M. SORIANO, JR.
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI - Apr 13 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
KALAHI-CIDSS Project
Loan No 7147 PH

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB KALAHI-CIDSS-03/DSWD-002
Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies toward the cost of the **KALAHI-CIDSS Project**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of heavy vehicle.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the purchase of the following items:

   Lot 1 - Zone 1, Luzon *3 brand new units* of Pick-up, 4x4, 4 cylinder in-line OHC Diesel, 2500-3000cc. hot climate engine cooling, 5-speed manual, double-cab
   Lot 2 - Zone 2, Visayas *3 brand new units* of Pick-up, 4x4, 4 cylinder in-line OHC Diesel, 2500-3000cc. hot climate engine cooling, 5-speed manual, double cab
   Lot 3 - Zone 3, Mindanao *4 brand new units* of Pick-up, 4x4, 4 cylinder in-line OHC Diesel, 2500-3000cc. hot climate engine cooling, 5-speed manual, double cab
   Lot 4 - Zone 4, Manila *1 brand new unit* of Passenger Van, 4 cylinder in-line OHC Diesel, 2500-3000cc. hot climate engine cooling, 5-speed manual
3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits* published in January 1995 revised January and August 1996, September 1997, and January 1999, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Mr. Nicomedes P. Sulier**, OIC, Property and Supply Division, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines from 0900 to 1700 hours.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in ***cash or in cashier's check***. The document will be sent by courier service.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address given below at or before ***May 28, 2003, 9:00 a.m.*** All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of ***Two and One-half percent (2 ½%)*** of the bid price in the form of a bank guarantee by a reputable commercial bank, irrevocable letter of credit, manager's or cashier's checks valid for 90 days, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative who choose to attend at the same address at ***May 28, 2003, 9:00 a.m.***
7. A Pre-bid conference will be held on ***April 21, 2003, 2:00 p.m.*** at the address given below

The Chairman
c/o BAC Secretariat
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Administrative Conference Room, DSWD Building
Batasang Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
(632) 931-8161 / (632) 951-7116

(Sgd.) Asst. Sec. RHODA F. YAP
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Apr 6 & 13 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Drug Consignment System
Steering and Oversight Committee
Bldg. #3, SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ, MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-83-01 LOCAL 1338

April 11, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

For Essential Drugs and Medicines Consignment
IFB No. 01-2003 (Consignment)

The Department of Health (DOH) hereby invites sealed bids/price offers from interested eligible suppliers for the Consignment of various Essential Drugs and Medicines (EDM) to all DOH Hospitals nationwide in accordance with the provisions and time schedule prescribed in DOH Administrative Order No. 5. s. 2003.

Only duly accredited DOH drugs and medicine suppliers as certified by the DOH Accreditation of Supplier's Committee for Drugs and Medicines and with valid Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) and who complied with Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) for 2003, as certified by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), are qualified to participate for the consignment of these EDM.

The list of EDM, AO 5, bid proposal form and other requirements for eligibility and postqualification can be obtained from the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph) or from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management Services Support Cluster (c/o Ms. Connie Liberan, Supply Officer IV), Bldg. #2, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, telefax: 711-68-31 or telephone: 743-83-01 loc. 1214 & 1225.

Prospective eligible bidder's request for clarifications must be in writing and must be submitted to the Drug Consignment System Steering and Oversight Committee (DCSSOC) Chairperson not later than **April 23, 2003.** The DCSSOC shall respond to the said request by issuing a Bid Bulletin if needed, and shall send response through fax to concerned bidder as well as post it in the DOH website.

Eligibility requirements and the bids in prescribed form must be submitted addressed to the Chairperson, DCSSOC not later than **10:00 a.m. on April 28, 2003** at the Information Management Service Conference Room, 2/F, Bldg. #9 Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) ***JUANITO A. RUBIO, MD, MHA, FPCS, FACOG, CESO II***
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Drug Consignment System Steering
and Oversight Committee

(PDI–April 13 & 20, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES
Davao City

NOTICE OF SEARCH & CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents formally and publicly announces that the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) Presidency is now open. Interested applicants are hereby, advised to apply to the Search Committee for the USEP Presidency, chaired by **Sis. Assumpta M. David, R.V.M.**

c/o **Marlon Ruben N. Fabricante**
Executive Assistant V
Office of the CHED Chairman Ester A. Garcia
Chairman, USEP Board of Regents
5th Floor, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel . No. 633-2713

THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Must be a Filipino Citizen
2. Must be a holder of Doctoral Degree
3. Must have at least five (5) years of administrative and managerial experience
4. Must have experience in instruction, research, and extension.
5. Must have experience in networking, resource generation, and mobilization.
6. Of proven moral integrity (no pending administrative/ criminal cases filed six (6) months prior to this announcement)

Applicants are required to submit the following :

1. Comprehensive Resumé
2. Mission/Vision for the University of Southeastern Philippines
3. List of Accomplishments in previous administrative and/or managerial positions
4. Sandiganbayan Clearance and/or NBI Clearance
5. Medical Certificate

Applicants are requested to submit eight (8) sets of their formal applications and certified supporting documents not later than **April 30, 2003.**

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation
Pandacan Installation

NOTICE OF SALE

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) will be conducting a pre-bid meeting on 15th April 2003, 2:30 p.m., Pandacan Materials Office, for the sale of V1-LPG Spherical Tank and Tk 21 Vertical Storage Tank as scrap located at its Pandacan Installation, 1011 Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila.

V1 Spherical Tank Data:
Estimated Metal Weight = 226 tons (approximately)
Design Pressure = 150 psig
Design Code = BS 1515
Inside diameter = 60 ft.
Average thickness = 26.44 mm

Tk21 Vertical Storage Tank Data:
Estimated Metal Weight = 123 tons (approximately)
Tank Height = 14 meters
Tank Diameter = 24 meters
Average plate thickness = 4.8 mm

As pre-qualification to bid, Interested parties are required to attend the pre-bid meeting (15th April 2003) and submit the following requirements due on 23rd April 2003:

1. **SEC Certificate of Registration**
2. **Latest Audited Financial Statement**

(Current Assets at least to match the projected total sale of the scraps)

Basis of award will be the buying rate per kilo of metal (*starting at* Php 5.0/kg) and shall be conducted via electronic On-Line Bidding (Auction). Only those qualified to bid will be included in the On-Line Bidding scheduled on 24th April 2003.

PSPC will deal with DIRECT BUYERS ONLY. Dismantling already being done by PSPC local contractors.

For details, interested parties can send their queries to this e-mail address: **andy.n.bonitez@shell.com.ph**

(PDI - Apr 13, 2003)

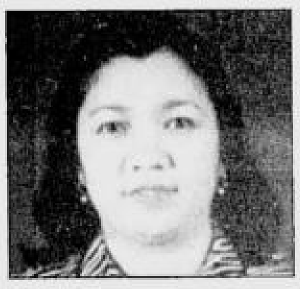
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

The Philippine Heart Center, Division of Anesthesia is accepting applicants for Fellowship in Cardiovascular Anesthesia.

Applicants must be graduates of an accredited Anesthesia Residency Training Program. For inquiries contact OER Tel. **925-2401** local **3234-3236** or Anesthesia office local **2267-2268**.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



CONCHITA P. ROMEROSA
(a.k.a. CONCHITA ANDREA ESPIRITU PAREDES)

This is to inform the public that the above named person was terminated for cause on March 20, 2003. Any transactions entered by this person in behalf of Pura Trading Corporation shall not be entertained.

(PDI–April 13, 2003)

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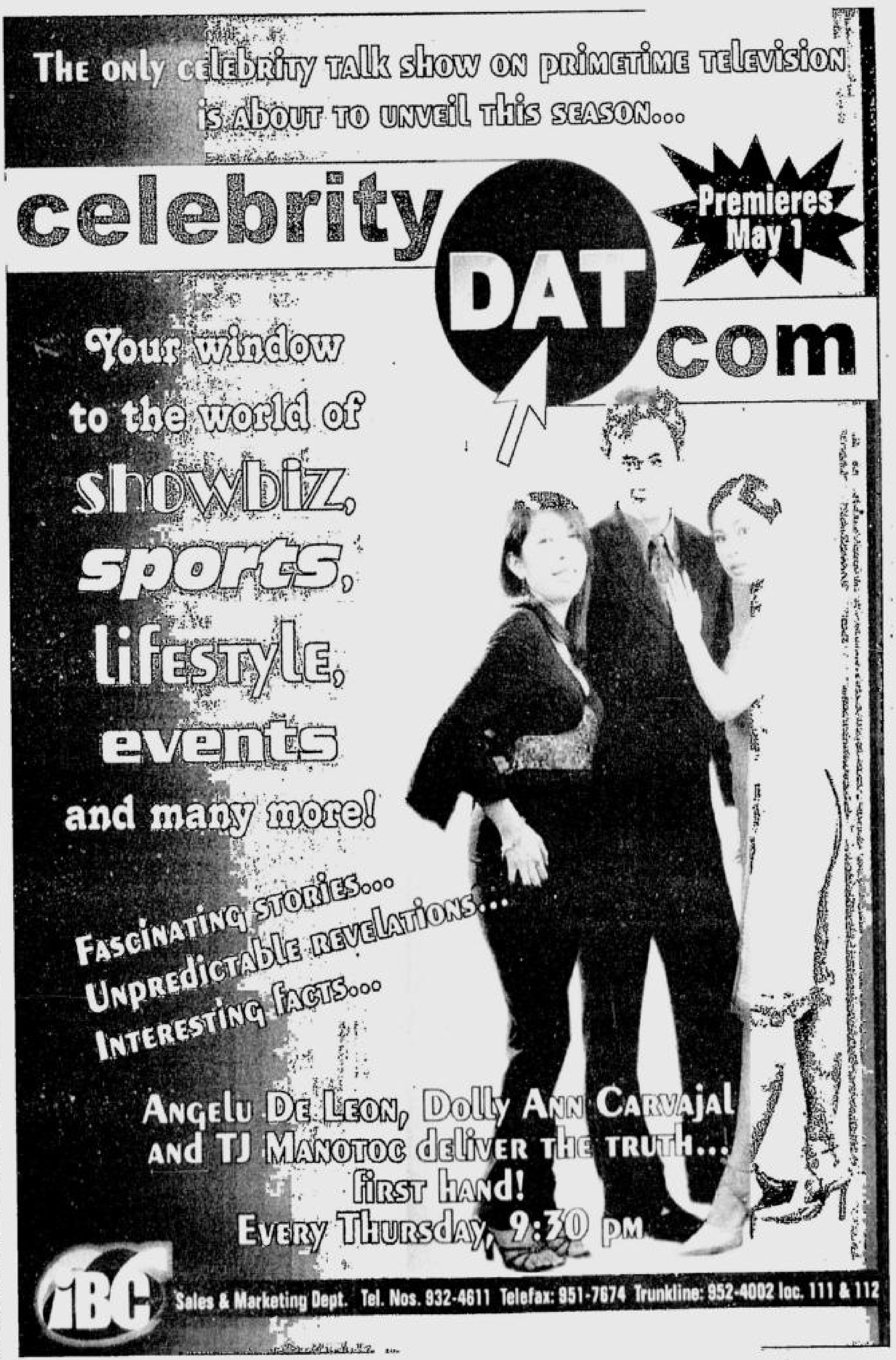

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Bear Brand Kitefest: another great year of family fun

SINCE it was launched in 1991 in Manila as the Bears in Flight Kite Festival, the event has indeed grown in tremendous proportions, branching out to key regional cities around the country - Dumaguete, Davao, Kalibo, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio, Naga, Palawan, Cabanatuan, Tacloban and Manila. For more than a decade now, it has seen around 18,000 kites in all forms and sizes, and has generated as much as a thousand participants and about 3,000 to 5,000 spectators, in one area alone. Coined in 2000 as the Bear Brand Kitefest, the activity continues to grace the Philippine skies with creativity and excitement, which the entire family can participate in.

According to Renan Lacida, Nestle AVP for marketing and promotions, the annual Bear Brand Kitefest started as a modest effort to encourage fun and wholesome competition for the young and old alike. It aims to create more opportunities to showcase Filipino creativity like kite making and kite flying to more communities nationwide. Through the efforts of Bear Brand, kite flying, one of the world's oldest and most popular recreational activities, has continuously aroused and sustained the interest of kite lovers in the country. Furthermore, the Bear Brand Kitefest has continued its thrust of upholding the value of togetherness among Filipino families, who are encouraged to participate in making and flying their own kites, and in attending the affair.

On its thirteenth edition, Bear Brand continues to give joy and entertainment to the whole family. Kite makers and kite flyers can expect a bigger and better kite celebration, with more prizes on the way for the participants in the flat kite, the geometric kite and the figure kite categories. The special awards also at stake include: the Super Kite Award (biggest flying kite in the figure category), Saranggola ni Bear Brand (best flying kite during the free flying period), Saranggola ng Barangay, Theme Kite Award (best flying kite representing the city or province), the Favorite of the Crowd Award and the Family Spotting Award.

Come one, come all. Test your creativity and kite flying skills as you soar the heavens and win big prizes. Have an exciting and colorful summer with your family at the Bear Brand Kitefest.

THE MARIKINA Sports Complex overflowed of creativity when over a hundred elementary students took part of the Bear Brand Kitefest 2003 Workshop. Among the participants were students from SSS Elementary School, Concepcion Elementary School, Barangka Elementary School and Nangka Elementary School. The workshop culminated in a mini-Bear Brand Kitefest wherein the students got to fly their own kites.

GLOBE'S GTAAA PROGRAM WINS ANVIL AWARD

The Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA) program of Globe Telecom recently won an Anvil Award of Merit from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) during the public relations organization's recent 38th Anvil Awards ceremonies. Now on its 8th year, the GTAAA continues to be a sustainable social responsibility program of Globe Telecom which seeks to recognize the best graduating students nationwide. It is open to high school students who excel in the fields of Science and Math and college students who excel in the field of Electrical Engineering (EE) or Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE). Through the GTAAA, Globe Telecom aims to nurture in young Filipinos an interest in the technology fields like telecommunications, engineering, and information technology. In photo are Globe Telecom SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs lawyer Rodolfo Salalima (3rd from right); Globe public relations head Jones Campos (3rd from left); and Globe community relations specialist Lissa Fontanilla (center) accepting Globe's Anvil Award. Presenting the award are (from left): PRSP president Winston Marbella, PRSP board of jurors member Roel Ramirez, PRSP past president Honesto Isleta and 38th Anvil Awards chair Victoria Medina.

STA. LUCIA HEALTH CARE CENTER OPENS

Cainta Mayor Nicanor Felix, (2nd from right) cuts the ribbon during the opening of Sta. Lucia Health Care Center at Sta. Lucia Mall East. Also in photo are (from left) Bb. Pilipinas contestant Joyce De los Reyes, Dr. Geofrey Angeles, Mayor Felix and Exequiel Robles, president and CEO of Sta. Lucia Realty.

CHAMBER OF THRIFT BANKS

SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION OF THRIFT BANKS WEEK

This year's celebration of Thrift Banks Week culminated in the annual convention of the members of the chamber held recently at the Dusit Hotel in Makati. It also coincided with the swearing in of the new set of CTB officers and directors by Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas. In photo (from left) are: Tomas Clemente Jr. (president, Luzon Development Bank); Rogelio Florete (1st vice president, CTB/president, Queen City Development Bank); Pascual Garcia III (secretary, CTB/president, Philippine Savings Bank); Ma. Flordelis Aguenza (president, Plantersbank); DTI Secretary Mar Roxas; Susan Figueras (president, CTB/president, Insular Savings Bank); Reynato Sarmiento (auditor, CTB/president, Real Bank); Evangeline Escobillo (president, Anchor Savings Bank); Violeta Inocencio (president, Farmers Savings & Loan Bank), Lolita Simpao (president, Bataan Savings & Loan Bank); Aurelio Montinola III (president, BPI Family Bank); Reynold Gerongay (president/ CEO, Robinsons Savings Bank) and Dionisio Ong (president, Asiatrust Bank). Not in photo are: Ma. Consorcia Tamayo (2nd vice president, CTB/president, University Savings and Loan Bank); Belen Castro (treasurer, CTB/president, Premiere Bank; Tereso Gumban Jr. (EVP/COO, Legazpi Savings Bank Inc.). The country's thrift banks continue to be a major contributor in the area of SME lending, microfinance and housing loan financing.

Lasallian Youth Summer Caravan 2003 kicks off in May

PREPARATIONS are now in full swing for the 1st Lasallian Youth Summer Caravan which will kick off in May 2003.

Initiated by the Lasallian Youth Commission (LYC), a dynamic organization of youth leaders who seek to bring young people to a deeper sharing and participation in the promotion of advocacy programs, the Youth Summer Caravan 2003 is specifically designed to address vital issues and concerns affecting the plight of children in the country.

The Youth Caravan is designed to reach out to strategic areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and aims to stir public awareness on the "rights of the child" as defined under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children.

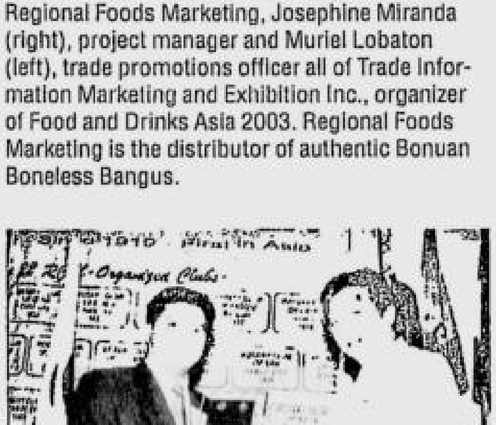
This year, the Lasallian Youth Commission has defined the Visayas Region, covering its different cities and municipalities as the pilot area for the project. Program speakers will be selected students from different La Salle schools in the country, represented by 40 participants from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Some of the participants will come from the delegates of the recently concluded Lasallian Youth Renewal Congress, the first major project of the commission held in La Salle Greenhills last February. Applicants will undergo a screening process and various training that will equip them with sufficient knowledge and skills necessary for them to be able to deliver a presentation on the campaign. The participants will also carry with them a mobile photo exhibit as they visit various municipalities to better enhance awareness of youth in the society.

The Youth Caravan will significantly involve the participation of thousands of Sangguniang Kabataan members, students, youth leaders and concerned constituents in the various activities lined-up by the Lasallian Youth Commission which includes a "right of the child" activity modules and a tour of historic places in the Visayas region.

This advocacy program was designed by the commission members spearheaded by the Common Life and Special Projects Task Force to serve as a venue for personal and community development that is centered into enhancing the awareness of the youth and the rest of the community regarding the rights of the child. It also represents their solidarity with the charism of their founder, St. John Baptist De La Salle. The Lasallian Youth Summer Caravan 2003 is the second major project of the Lasallian Youth Commission for the term 2002-2003.

RFM JOINS FOOD & DRINKS EXPO

Regional Foods Marketing will join Food and Drinks Asia 2003 on Sept. 3 to 6 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila. Signing the agreement were Hulsey Espacio (center), manager of Regional Foods Marketing, Josephine Miranda (right), project manager and Muriel Lobaton (left), trade promotions officer all of Trade Information Marketing and Exhibition Inc., organizer of Food and Drinks Asia 2003. Regional Foods Marketing is the distributor of authentic Bonuan Boneless Bangus.



HUDCC CHAIR RECEIVES TOKEN

President-elect / vice president Boy Ampil presents to Michael Tan Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the club's token of appreciation for being the guest of honor and speaker, during its weekly Thursday luncheon meeting held last Feb. 27 at the Manila Hotel.

Clips

Easter Fun at SM

ALL BRANCHES of SM Supermalls celebrate the Easter holidays with a variety of activities. A series of workshops, stage presentations, photo opportunities and an Easter party are spiced up with various contests. The fun kicks off with a series of work and play workshops that include an Easter Bunny Ears Making, Easter Drawing and Coloring, and Easter Egg Painting sessions on April 14, 15, 16 and 19. An Easter play on April 19 (12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.) at SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa, SM City Bicutan and SM Southmall will be staged by the young members of Teatro Tomasino. The weeklong event will be highlighted by an Easter Party on April 20. The affair will be spiced up by fun activities and contests, including an Easter Egg Painting contest and an Easter Costume contest. Certificates will be awarded to winners, Interested parties can register at participating SM Supermalls from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Judging starts at 4 p.m.

Kenny Rogers seafood

FASTING and abstinence are two of the things that immediately come to mind when one talks about the Lenten season. They are symbolic of spiritual cleansing. During the Lenten season, what is most important is the spirit of one's sacrifice, and not what one chooses to eat or not to eat. Families can enjoy a day out by dropping by Kenny Rogers Roasters for a hearty meal of Kenny's Seafood Kebab-a mouth-watering meal of swordfish cubes and crabsticks grilled to perfection with Kenny's special barbecue sauce and come with a healthy serving of java rice and your choice of side dish. Kenny's Seafood Kebab is available for dine-in, take-out and delivery at all Kenny Rogers outlets.

Free facial

IN TIME for the opening of its 22nd branch, Dermclinic is offering free facial treatment at its newest branch at the lower ground floor, Building B of SM Bicutan. All you have to do is call Dermclinic SM Bicutan branch to reserve a schedule. The clinic will accommodate up to 10 lucky patrons per day and they will get a free deep-cleansing facial treatment courtesy of the medical experts of Dermclinic. Dermclinic already has 22 branches nationwide. With over 30 years of dermatological experience, the skin clinic expert gives specialized treatments for all types of skin problems. The promo period will be from April 4 to 16 and May 13 to 26. Call the Dermclinic Bicutan hotline at 777-9345 and catch that free facial now.

THREE-FOOT LONG SAUSAGE STUFFED INTO THE CRUST!
Huge savings! As much as P 32!
Nestea

PIZZA HUT SPONSORS BB. PILIPINAS PAGEANT

The new addition to Pizza Hut's stuffed crust line, the sausage stuffed crust pizza, was an instant hit with the Bb. Pilipinas candidates during their visit to Pizza Hut, All Mall branch. Mouth-watering with its 3-foot long juicy hungarian sausage, golden brown crust with of course your favorite choice of topping. Definitely another exciting reason to eat pizza backwards. Pizza hut was a sponsor at the 2003 Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant which was held last March 15 at the Araneta Coliseum.

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LIFESTYLE

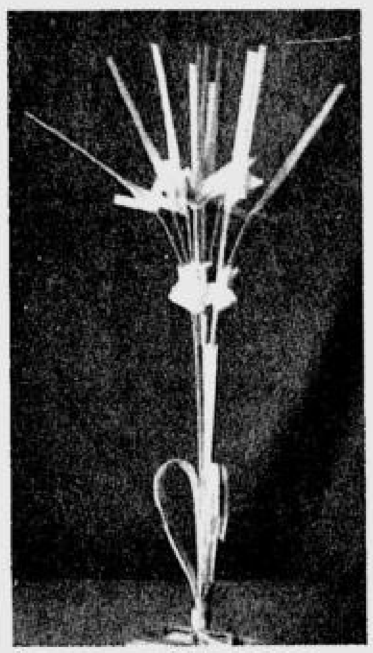
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

CUARESMA

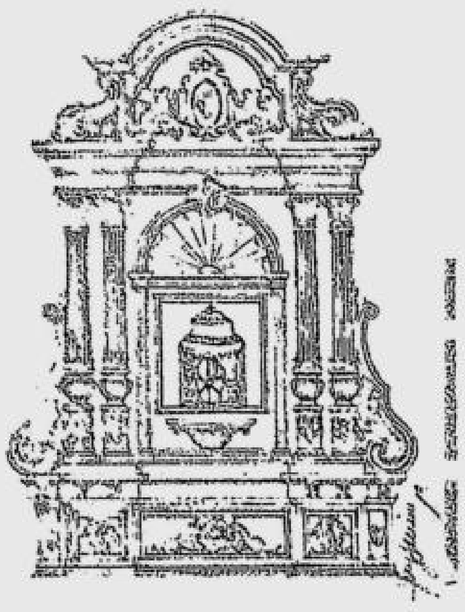
Guest editor Rachy Cuna

Eggstasy/ D6

The cycle of life and death is observed this week through the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, starting from today's Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem until next Sunday's Easter. Filipinos look forward to this holiest of Christian traditions with a mixture of reflection, regalia and relaxation. Guest editor Rachy Cuna (right) highlights the season with a gallery of 'palaspas,' a nest of Easter eggs, a valley bedecked with the Stations of the Cross, old bells, 'carrozas' and altars. We hope this issue serves as a guide on what to do and where to go, starting on Holy Wednesday, which is a special nonworking holiday.



Leaves of Passion and celebration/ C6



Adriano's altars/ D2

Life-size Stations of the Cross in Cagayan/ E1

Dependent.
Rosanne Prieto
Socialite
Prepare to get hooked.

The wild colors of Lent

By Fr. Gabriel Casal, S.J.

A POPULAR song decades ago wistfully laments: "You can't go home again." During principal Christian feasts like Christmas or the so-called Mahal na Araw (Holy Week), many of us find ourselves wallowing in reveries of what these feasts were "in the old days."

Take the case of the language and the chant of the rites in the era before the Vatican Council II. People still ask why the arcane and esoteric Latin of the centuries had to be changed to the vernacular. Did not Latin convey the "sacred," precisely because the general public could not understand it?

The Church in her role as an understanding Mother had to decide in favor of the vernacular as the more pragmatic and logically farthest-reaching medium understood by all. Liturgical rites were never meant to be a magical mumbo-jumbo. For much too long had Christians sat back when the liturgy should invite and encourage them to participate in a personally experiential way.

The replacement of the chant of ages follows the same considerations of expediency that occasioned the shift from Latin. How we all miss the ethereal beauty of Gregorian chant! Its simplicity and purity is without equal—allowing us to soar beyond the banal and vulgar world of ours.

All of us agree, though, that the chant was never easy to sing well. It required so much discipline and a difficult shift in sentiments. It was cruel, not to say unrealistic, to impose all the necessary hours of practice from our Church-going congregations for the chant to be sung acceptably. And we all know how excruciating it was to hear it sung improperly.

We are sadly left with the recourse of buying tapes and CDs such as those sung by the Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos. But much as we gloried in hearing the Gregorian chant again, we knew it could not be a revival as we wished it to be. It was but a fad that answered the spiritual famine of our materialistic times, reminding us of a treasure that had to be preserved.

> Vatican II reforms may have simplified the liturgy, but Pinoy Lenten observances remain elaborate, highly dramatic, and ultimately moving and powerful

Would that Benedictine communities exert all effort to continue training their monks in this admirable tradition that transported the chant like some sacred fragrance from the Dark Ages to us, even through and in spite of the Renaissance and Baroque innovative musical expressions.

Fair enough—for such religious communities, some lesser music could be allowed for ordinary days. For the great feasts, though, only the testimony of Gregorian chant should be unfurled—as when one flaunts his best robes during the best occasions!

Core of faith

This brings us now to some of the colorful folk practices of Holy Week and its climax, the Easter Triduum, composed of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday that come hand-in-hand with the Church's formal liturgy.

Folk practices like the *pabasa* and similar traditions acknowledge that the Passion and Death of Christ are the core of Christian celebrations. When the accounts of the Passion of Christ according to Matthew, Mark and Luke on Palm Sunday and according to John on Good Friday are formally proclaimed in our churches, it is role-acted—or shall we say more precisely—role-read by the main celebrant, ministers and a congregation. This is most laudable and wonderful because the faithful are supposed not just to reenact but ideally to re-live the Passion of Christ in an experiential way as the reading of the Passion is participated in by all.

The folk practice of singing the *pabasa* these nights in neighborhoods is an interesting tradition—beautiful because it is a genuine expression of the religiosity of a Christian society.

There is another quaint tradition that has carried into the present in spite of the changing times. For many of us, the *visitas iglesias* is among our earliest memories. It was a most special occasion, a once-a-year affair when one dressed up in finery and went with the family, mostly on foot, to visit seven churches to pray in front of the unique altar of the Repository, an ornate tabernacle set up for that one day in all its glory.

Not only did we, the children, contest the merits of the seven Repositories visited and argued as to what were the first, second and third "most beautiful" of them, but also compared the number of acquaintances and friends we met that year on the streets, as compared to the past year's.

Now, of course, *visitas iglesias* is no longer done through Thursday afternoon but from Thursday evening after the great service reliving the Last Supper, when 12 outstanding parishioners, often dressed up with their sashes identifying them as one of the Apostles, have their feet washed by the celebrant.

It continues through the night onto 3 p.m. of the next day, Good Friday, when the consecrated hosts in the Altar of the Repository are brought in a solemn procession to the main altar for the somber communion service that re-enacts the death of the crucified Christ on Calvary.

Deadest day

In the old days, children would make sure they were up and about the next morning, Holy Saturday, waiting expectantly to hear the pealing of church bells. No child would miss the chance of jumping , which according to common belief, should guarantee them growing a few inches. And what Filipino child wanted to stay *pandak*!

Nowadays Holy Saturday is the deadest day of the year—the one day of the year when no single Mass is celebrated throughout Christendom. Meditation and participation in the Stations of the Cross are all that is left for the devotee to do. The loneliness is accentuated by the practically empty church. The devotees do not even have the Blessed Sacrament. Christ is dead in the underworld!

These recent years, after the Vatican Council II, we have learned to sense an almost electric and palpable anticipation throughout the otherwise inert Holy Saturday. It inexorably moves on to the evocative drama of the Easter Vigil.

The History of Salvation is recounted in darkness with the church's lights off, from the creation of light to the formation of the world, the sun, the moon and the stars, the creation of plants and animals and, finally, the creation of man.

The account rolls on with the story of the flood. The exile of Israel in Egypt, the avenging Angel of God slaughtering all the firstborn of all Egyptian households skipping, or "passing over," the homes of the Israelites with their lintels marked with the blood of the lamb, and the drama of the Exodus with the cinematic parting of the Red Sea and the rolling back of the waters drowning the army of horses, chariots and charioteers of the Egyptians in that most spectacular of chases.

Some of the responses to the Exodus lessons are so successful that you can almost hear the horses' hooves, the crunch of the gravel and the panting of the fleeing Israelites.

Evocative fire

Then comes the blessing of the Sacred Fire. In itself a most evocative rite that verges on the mystical, the church is still swallowed in darkness. It is at times dramatized to the point of exaggeration and risk. I was in a parish church once when, at this dramatic moment, the fire was made to slide down a wire from some high point at the entrance of the church, over the heads of the congregation, to the spot where the fire was to be blessed. Great drama! But had the wire snapped or the live coals spilled, we could have barbecued heads at Easter.

The Easter candle is blessed with five nails with incense heads inserted into the symbolic wounds of Christ in the candle, with the celebrant proclaiming "Christ... yesterday and today! The Alpha and Omega." The great, lovingly decorated candle is lighted from the new Sacred Fire, the bearer carries it in darkness down the whole length of the church, sets the candle in the middle of the sanctuary and declares the magnificent Easter proclamation, the "Exulted"—one singer, one flame in the total darkness that dares to sing out, "Oh happy sin of Adam that merited us such a Redeemer-Christ, that Morning Star!"

When the "Gloria" explodes simultaneously with all the church's lights switched on, the organ letting go its paean of joy and all the bells pealing in jubilation, you would have reached your personal resurrection in full communion with the newly risen Christ!

Before Vatican II when the church's rites lacked the clarity of the reformed liturgy that is now in a language understood by the congregation, it was understandable that some folk practices were introduced. The more meaningful ones have flourished. This could be the case of the *salubong* practice, which till now is well loved by parishes.

This quaint and rather theatrical tradition has the statue of the Mother of Sorrows moving processionally through the streets of the village or, nowadays, the subdivision, drowned in her devastating pain at the death of her Son. When, as the dawn breaks that Easter morning, a little angel pulls away her black veil of mourning to allow her to meet the image of the Resurrected Christ moving towards her. One can only imagine the typical Filipino relishing in so much pathos!

Whatever other expressions the Christian believers find culturally valid and reflective of their sentiments, Easter is always considered as the crowning glory, the climax of a long and elaborate season of liturgical and folkloric practices, the highlight of the Filipinos' Mahal na Araw.

The author is the director of the National Museum

The Experts Speak Up!

Jesus Randy O. Cañal, MD, FPSOHNS
Training Officer -- Department of ORL-HNS
Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center
Director -- Philippine Society of Otolaryngology -- Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.

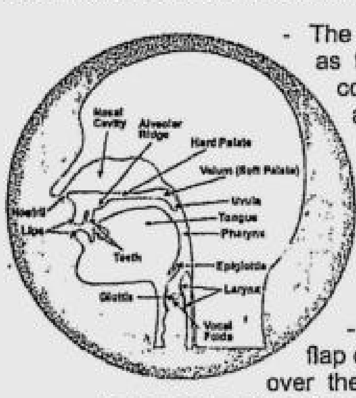
You and your Throat Worries

Be acquainted with the common problems of the throat

The throat is perhaps one of the most overlooked organs in the human body. People generally take for granted the fact that they regularly breathe and swallow. Structures in the throat also contribute greatly to the formation of speech -- a basic medium of interaction with our environment. Improper care and abuse of the throat can lead to a number of ailments and problems. Read on to know more about them.

What is the throat?

The throat (lalamunan), or the pharynx, is the area found at the back of your oral cavity. It is a cone-like muscular tube leading from the mouth and nasal cavities to the esophagus (the tube that conveys food to your stomach) and to the larynx (the tube that conveys air to and from your lungs). In short, it acts as a passageway for air, food, and liquid. The throat, as most people refer to, consists of the following structures and organs:

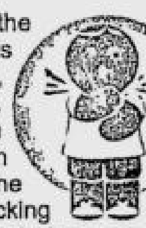


- The **larynx**, also known as the voice box. It is composed of muscles and tissues that contain the vocal cords. The vocal cords open up to the windpipe, a passageway to the lungs.
- The **epiglottis**, a flap of tissue which folds over the vocal cords and helps prevent food from entering the lungs.
- The **tonsils** and **adenoids**. These are lymphoid tissues located at the back and the sides of the mouth that form a "ring" around the throat to help protect against infection from the outside environment (the adenoids are actually found at the extreme back of the nose).

Because the throat serves as a pathway for the material from the outside environment such as air and food, it can also be very susceptible to infections and other diseases. The common complaints concerning the throat are "sore throat," laryngitis, tonsillitis, and hoarseness of voice.

Sore Throat

A sore throat in the strict sense of the word should pertain only to a painful or uncomfortable sensation felt in the throat area. However, people often include loss of voice or hoarseness of the voice in this definition. Sore throat is characterized by discomfort, pain, and scratchiness of the throat. It is also often associated with enlarged, tender glands or lymph nodes in the neck, which signify the body's defensive response to attacking infections caused by viruses and bacteria.



Viral sore throats include infections caused by the flu, the common cold, or infectious mononucleosis (the kissing disease), which is a severe form of sore throat common in teenagers and first time kissers. Sore throats due to viruses are accompanied by colds, stuffy nose, and body aches. They are highly contagious and can take about a week to subside. Rest is an effective cure for this kind of sore throat. Liquids and over-the-counter drugs can help alleviate symptoms such as pain and runny nose.

"Strep throat" is a specific bacterial infection that is usually characterized by a painful throat and neck, accompanied by fever and whitish pus-like deposits in the tonsillar area. This specific form of sore throat usually requires antibiotics and professional care, for if it is improperly managed, there will be a high chance for heart and kidney damage. In strep infections, the body's own defense mechanisms produce antibodies to fight the streptococcus bacteria. However, these very same "protective" antibodies may also attack the body's heart valves and kidneys, causing harm to the individual (this phenomenon is more often seen in the below 20 age group).

Gargling with an antiseptic mouthwash is also another approach to sore throat management. The soothing effect of the mouthwash/gargle also gives subjective relief to sore throat sufferers.

Next week, we continue with a discussion on other specific throat problems: laryngitis, tonsillitis and hoarseness of voice.

We'd like to hear from you!
Text us your answers to the following questions at 0917-8PFIZER (0917-8734937) or 0918-9PFIZER (0918-9734937) and get a chance to win a Pfizer gift pack!

1. Have you experienced any throat problems? Y N
2. Have you taken medication for your throat? Y N

To answer, text PFI (space), ENT (space), 3 (space), your answers (space), your name (space) and your complete address.

Example: PFI ENT 3 YN Paul Reyes 8 Macopa St., Project 7, Q.C.

Join now and win a special Pfizer gift pack! Lucky texters can get the chance of winning free samples!

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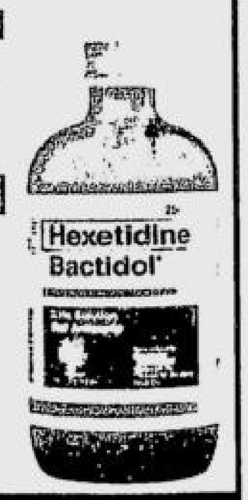
Should you have any questions about ENT or comments regarding this column, please email to Pfizer ENT (bactidol@pfizer.com). You can also text 0917-8PFIZER (0917-8734937) or 0918-9PFIZER (0918-9734937) and type in PFI (space), ENT (space), your question or comment.

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGERY
1956

A health update from the throat care experts, PSO-HNS and Bactidol.



Apung Iru, intercessor of the people of Apalit, Pampanga

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

SINCE the 1800s, the intercession of Apung Iru, the name given by the people of Apalit, Pampanga, to St. Peter, has been sought to heal the sick and protect them from disasters.

According to Dr. Erlinda Sazon Badenhop, her family was saved during the war, the people of Apalit did not die of hunger because the river always had fish and when the Japanese bombed the town, the cabinet where the saint's image was kept was not destroyed.

In the late '80s, 12-year-old Nick who had leukemia was brought to the saint's chapel in Barrio Capalangan. Dr. Badenhop prayed to Apung Iru while her brother Margarito Sazon, who was in a trance, was heard saying, "*Iwanan ang bata sa bahay ko* (Leave the boy in my house)." The boy was given water boiled with barks and leaves to drink. After two weeks, he got well. Nick is now happily married.

Devotees

Dr. Badenhop traced the generations of devotees and recamaderas who took care of Apung Iru. Don Pedro Armayan and the great grandmother of her mother Elisa Arnedo Sazon brought the image to an ancestral house in Apalit.

Don Pedro's daughter Doña Maruja married Macario Arnedo who became the first governor of Pampanga. They took care of the image every fiesta on June 29 and people would come to pray to the saint. Other *recamaderas* include Doña Isidora Arnedo, sister of Don Macario; Doña Isabel Arnedo, daughter of Doña Maruja; Doña Rosario Arnedo, sister of Elisa; and Doña Elisa Arnedo Sazon.

Doña Elisa's daughter, Dr. Badenhop, and cousin Bro. Andrew Gonzalez are the present caretakers of the image which is now enthroned in a chapel beside the newly built house of the Arnedos. The ancestral house caught fire on July 22, 2002. Brother Andrew helped in the rebuilding of the chapel.

Holy Thursday event

Remy Sazon, cousin of Dr. Badenhop, is preparing a gathering of devotees on Holy Thursday, April 17, in the chapel of Apung Iru. The shrine is where they will put up the 14th Station of the Cross.

Dr. Badenhop, who got help from Apung Iru when she had severe gastroenteritis, is willing to share prayers with people who would like to have a copy. Please write to Dr. Erlinda Badenhop at 2586 Lt. Garcia St., Baclaran, Parañaque City. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Good Friday in Cavite

Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite, will hold a procession of 10 *carrozas* depicting the passion and death of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. This includes the Sorrowful Mother owned by Rep. Plaridel Abaya and family; and the "Santo Entierro" owned by lawyer Leon del Rosario and family. The Knights of Columbus will act as honor guards during the procession. The parish was established in May 1966 by the late Bishop Artemio Casas of the diocese of Imus. Parish priest is Fr. Virgilio Mendoza who is also the diocese's historian.

Manila Cathedral's schedule

The Manila Cathedral, which recently held the blessing of its new Rectory and offices, will have the following sked for Holy Week: April 13, Palm Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Mass by

APUNG/ C3

Apung Iru, intercessor of the people of Apalit, Pampanga

From page C2

Bishop Ted Buhain; April 17, Holy Thursday, 7 a.m. Chrism Mass by Cardinal Sin; 5 p.m. Mass of the Last Supper by Msgr. Nestor Cerbo with Fr. Gennie Diwa as homilist.

April 18, Good Friday, 12 nn, Seven Last Words; 2 p.m., Stations of the Cross; 3 p.m. celebration of the Lord's Passion by Bishop Nestor Carino.

April 19, 10 a.m. Meditation on the Death of Christ by Fr. Gennie Diwa; 10 p.m., Easter Vigil celebration by Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco.

Palm Sunday recollection

Fr. Jerry Orbos is giving a half-day recollection today, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Meralco Theater. Everybody is invited.

Blessed Margaret of Castello

Today is also the feast of Blessed Margaret of Castello. Margaret was born blind and a hunchback. Because of shame, her parents left her in a small cell in the forest. But Margaret was a survivor. She found herself among beggars and lived with them. She also inspired them by her holiness and brought them closer to God. People pray to Blessed Margaret to help them not only in their physical infirmities, but also in their loneliness and emptiness.

Those who want a xeroxed copy of the prayer to Blessed Margaret can write me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Sta. Maria Cleofe

Sta. Maria Cleofe joins in the procession on Good Friday in the parish of San Andres in Virac, Catanduanes. During Holy Week, pray to her if you need help. She is also known as Mary of Cleophas. Please write me if you have answered prayers.

Time to reflect

This Lenten season, meditate on the passion of Lord Jesus Christ by reading The Upper Room Bible devotional guide.

Published by New Day Publishers, The Upper Room is a bimonthly international and interdenominational Bible reading guide used by some 10 million families worldwide. It contains simple and practical guidelines for daily Christian living based on passages and lessons from the Holy Bible. It is available locally in English, Tagalog, Ilocano and Visayan.

The devotional was named after the Biblical "upper room" of the house in Jerusalem where Jesus Christ and his disciples met, prayed and instituted the Holy Eucharist.

"For three decades, The Upper Room has been propagating inspirational messages regardless of denominational or sectarian affiliation. With its availability to a wider reading public, we hope that it will help in the spiritual nurture of Filipinos particularly in these trying times," said New Day Publishers executive director Bezalie Uc-Kung.

The Upper Room is available at leading bookstores such as National Bookstore, Goodwill Bookstore, and the Philippine Bible Society Bookstore. For subscriptions and other inquiries, call 928-8046 or 927-5982.

50 years of 'Tercera Caida'

THE REBUSTILLO family in Legazpi will mark the 50 years that the "Tercera Caida" has been participating in the Holy Week processions, with a Thanksgiving Mass on Holy Wednesday at the residence of Dehlia Napay Rebustillo.

This is a form of penance imposed by the late Jesus Rebustillo in 1952. The sculptor of the three figures in the Station of the Cross "Jesus falls the third time" was done by the late Castro Vibar.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Cubao will join the Holy Week retreat at Araneta Coliseum: Holy Thursday at 7 a.m.- 12 nn, Fr. Erick Santos; and Good Friday with Fr. Anton Pascual, at the same time.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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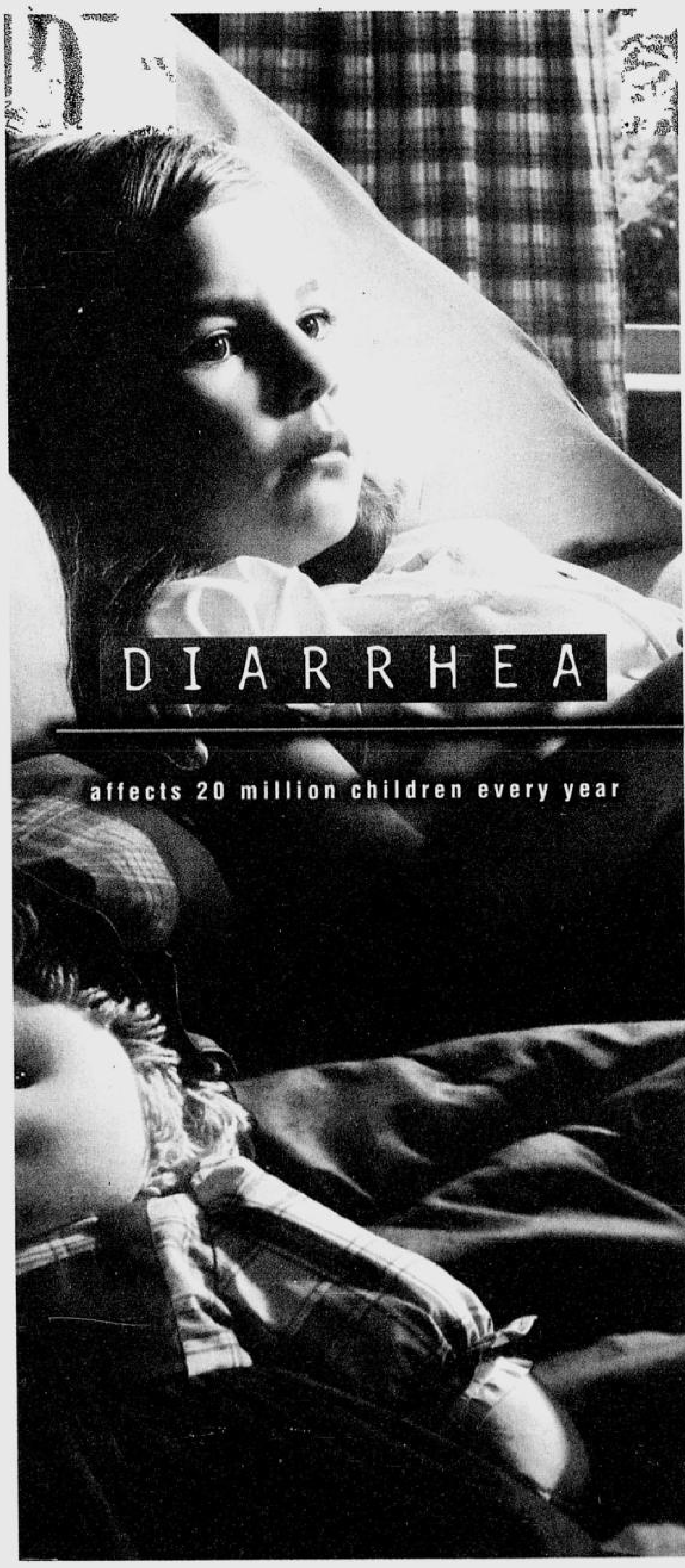
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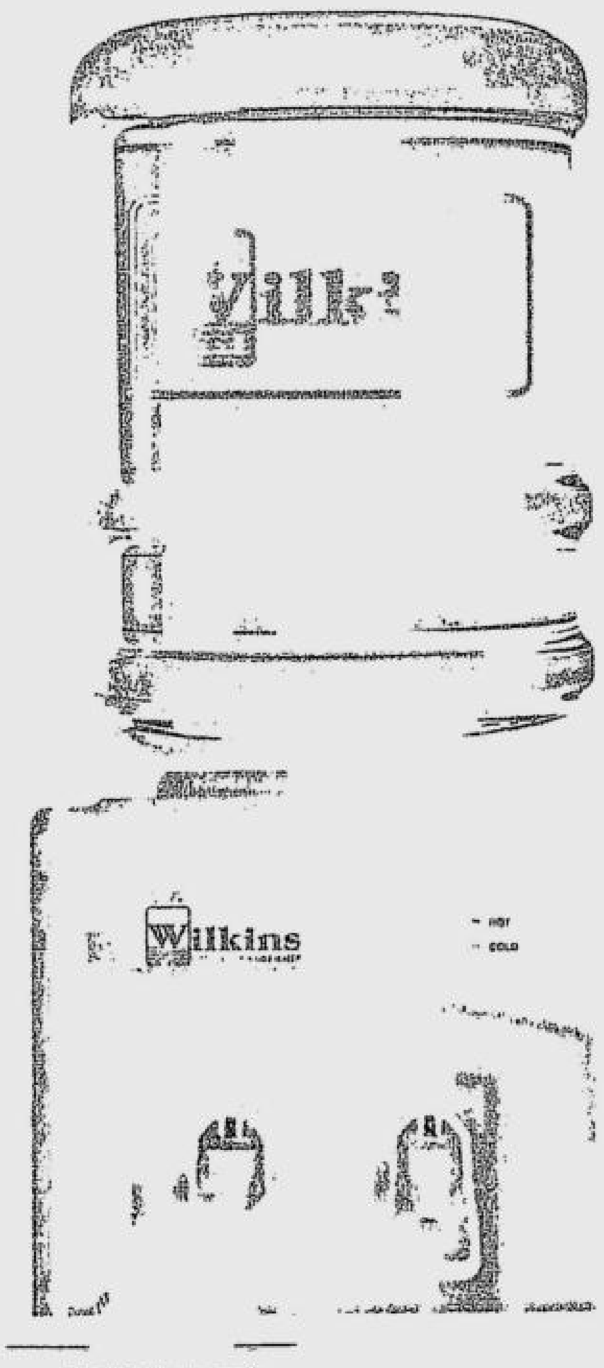

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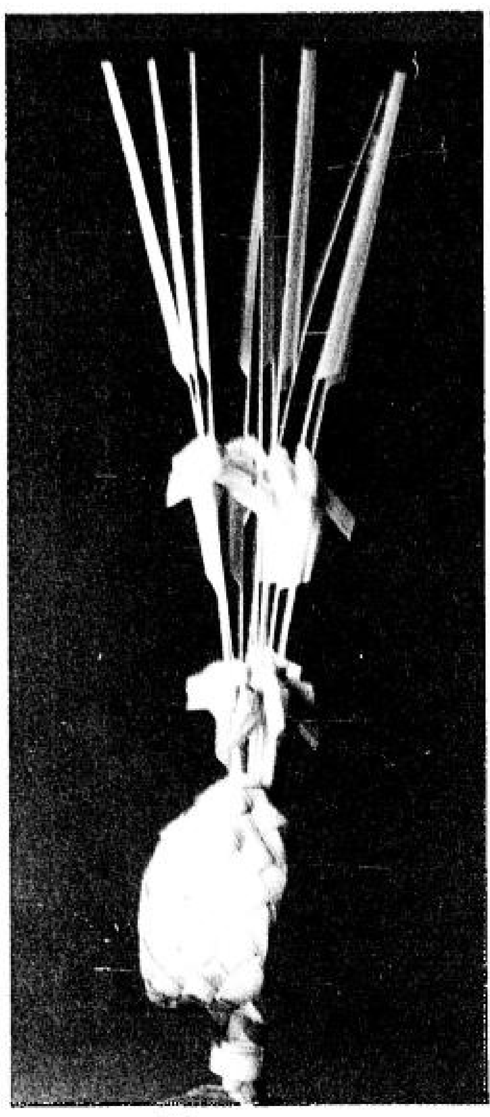
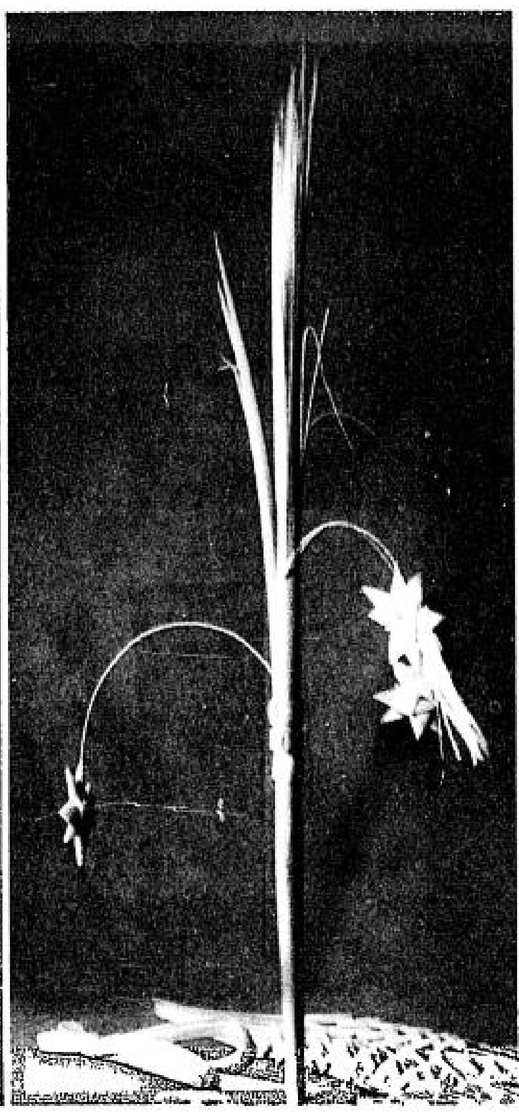
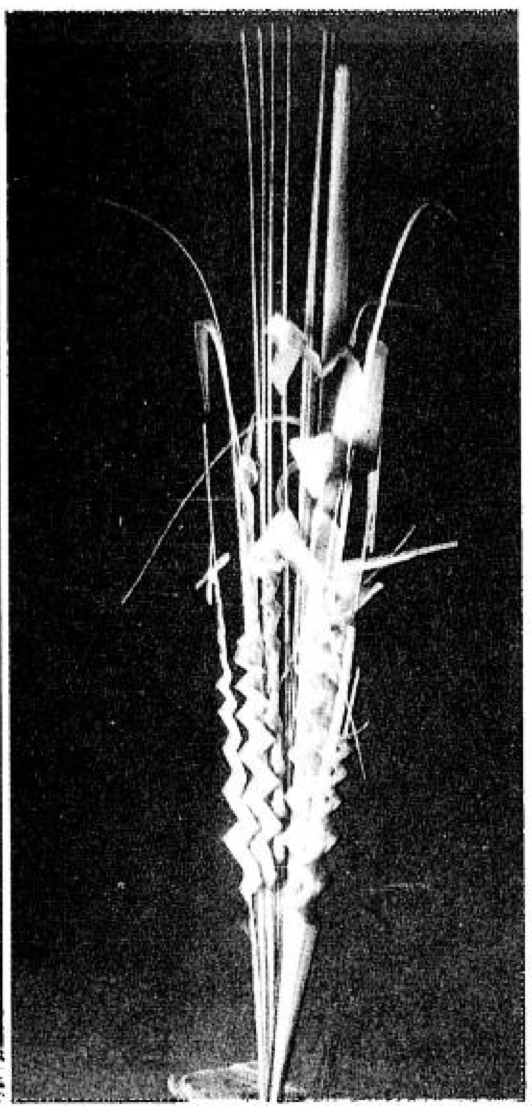
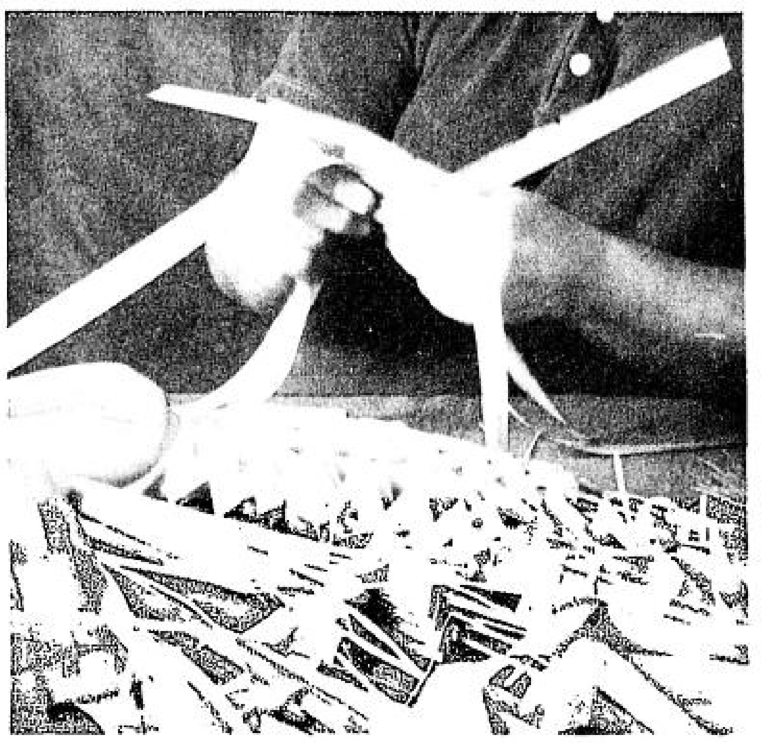
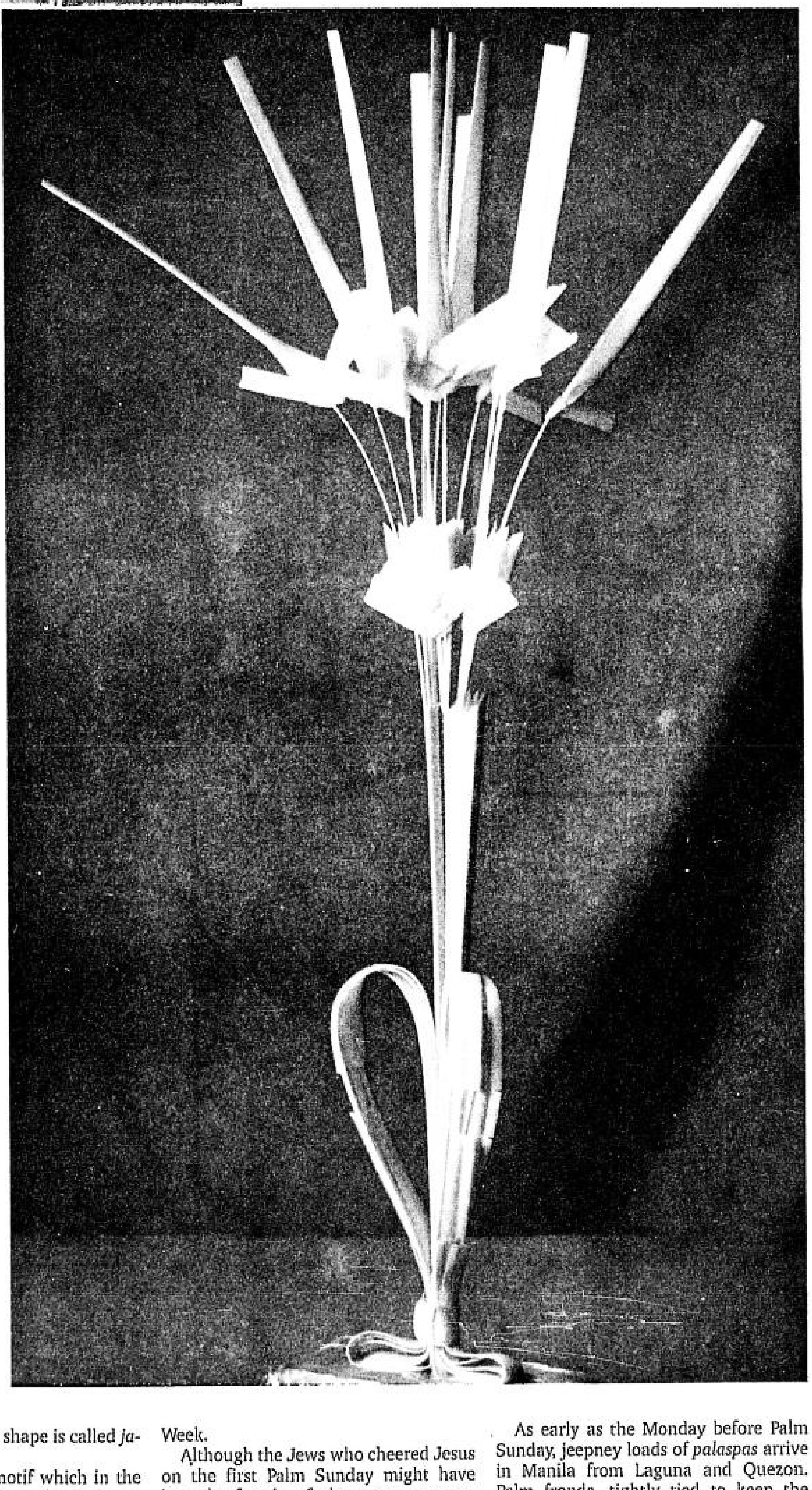








Leaves of Passion and Celebration



Text and *palaspas* by Fr. Rene Javellana, S.J.
Photographs by Bobot Meru

Palm Sunday is a perfect confluence of Western Catholicism and the Southeast Asian way of life with palm fronds

ONCE a year, on a Sunday called Palm, church yards and the streets around them bloom with thousands of yellow-green coconut fronds decorated by folding, weaving, plaiting, cutting and binding the leaves that make up the fronds.

These fronds, brought to church for an early morning blessing, are called *palaspas* by the Tagalog and *lukay* by the Visayans. Hence, the vernacular names Linggo ng Palaspas or Lukay-lukay.

The practice of using young palm leaves in a religious setting has a long history; its cultural roots link the Philippines with the rest of Southeast Asia. In the 16th century, Juan de Placensia, a Franciscan pioneer assigned to Laguna, reported such ritual and decorative use. In "Customs of the Tagalog," he reports that, although the Tagalog had a word for church, *simbahan*, they did not have a set and permanent building for worship. Instead, when rituals called *pandot* were celebrated, a temporary structure called *sibi* was built beside the chief's long house to protect the villagers from the elements.

The village chief's residence and the area surrounding it were the customary sites for communal gatherings, including worship. At the *sibi*'s posts, according to Blair and Robertson, small lamps called *sorihile* were set and in the center was "a large lamp, adorned with leaves of the white palm wrought into many designs."

When the friars and missionaries began converting wholesale villages and clans, the practice of using fresh palm leaves was appropriated for Christian worship. Celebrations and fiestas in the Visayas were no less grand and solemn despite the lack of resources and funds, enthused Fr. Francisco Ignacio Alzina, a priest assigned to the mission of the Pintados.

Writing in 1668, Alzina said what the Visayans lacked in damasks, Flemish and Italian tapestries, paintings on linen—which in Baroque Spain were hung along the processional route and adorned churches—they made up for with constructions in bamboo, adorned with flowers and foliage from the forests, and coconut leaves decorated in a curious though visually appealing manner.

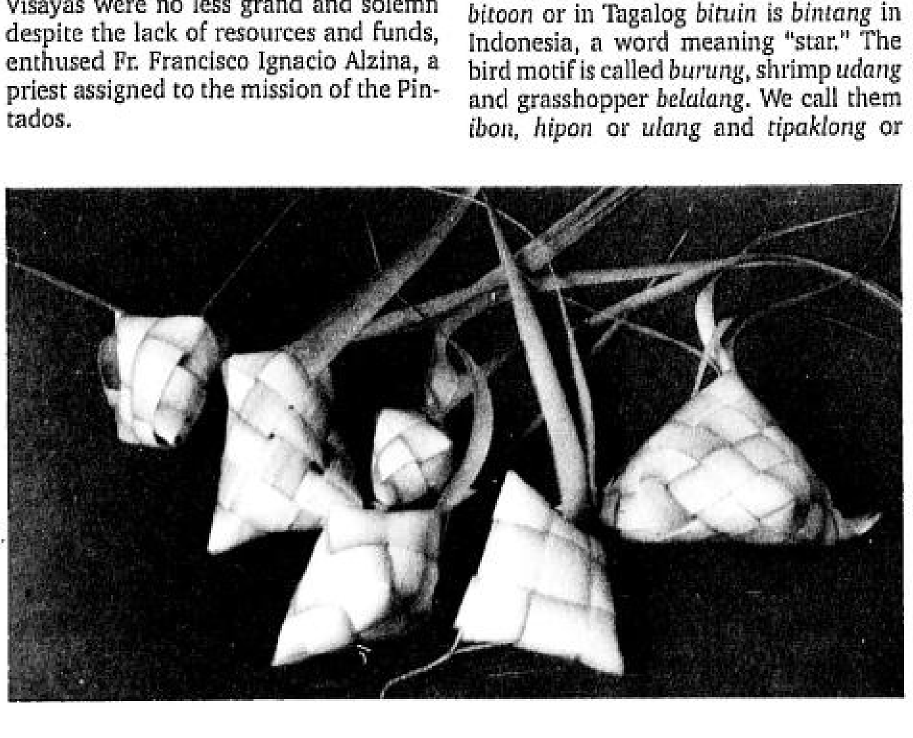
With materials provided by the bounty of field and forest and the deft hands of the Visayans, who had a way with leaves, solemnities like Corpus Christi did not lack the elaborate labyrinth which was raised in the church's atrium and through which the procession of the Blessed Sacrament threaded, just as it was customary in Spain.

Asian link

Alzina associates the use of palm leaves with all church fiestas, not with that one day a year as we do today—Linggo ng Palaspas. Nonetheless, the widespread use of palm leaves as decoration links us with our Southeast Asian neighbors, like Indonesia, where *janur* or the young coconut leaf is folded, plaited, cut, joined to decorate arches, fruit trays, and *nasi kuning* (boiled rice with turmeric) a special food for festive occasions.

In Bali, *janur* is woven daily to make small offering baskets in which rice, sweets, three differently colored flowers, and incense are placed as gifts to the Hindu Trimurti, the spirits of ancestors, of the earth, of passageways, and even of malevolence that cause illness and disaster. And an aspersion with water from the holy springs completes the ritual performed by women in the morning and in the evening.

The decorative motifs of Indonesia bear striking similarity with our own, even in name. The zigzag fold which we call *kidlat* or *kris is keris* in Indonesia. The star motif called in the Visayas *bitoon* or in Tagalog *bituin is bintang* in Indonesia, a word meaning "star." The bird motif is called *burung*, shrimp *udang* and grasshopper *belalang*. We call them *ibon*, *hipon* or *ulang* and *tipaklong* or *balang*. The pineapple shape is called *jagung*.



The heart-shaped motif which in the Visayas is filled with rice and called *puso* is similar in design to the Indonesian *ketupat* which is also filled with rice. A cognate of this word is *patupat* in Panggalatok and archaic Tagalog, and refers to a container woven from *buri* or coconut leaves. *Ketupat* means small basket in Bahasa Indonesia.

Indonesians also create elaborate arrangements of flowers and fruits with *janur*, called *hiasan duduk*. These towering creations are built with a core of banana stalk stuck to a base. Used as decorations in marriage rites in Java or borne on the head for processionals in Bali, the *hiasan* adds a touch of opulence even to the most simple village ritual.

Joyous occasions

Our custom of decorating coconut palm fronds for Palm Sunday is clearly an attenuated version of the Asian custom of using the fresh, unopened fronds to embellish important and joyous occasions. And Palm Sunday is one such day in the seven-day celebration of Holy Week.

Although the Jews who cheered Jesus on the first Palm Sunday might have brought fronds of the most common palm in Jerusalem—the date—as Christianity spread, other branches were brought and blessed in church.

In Rome the custom is to bring olive branches and in Poland it is a bunch of branches of evergreens, flowering and fruit trees, in short, whatever Nature yields in the first burst of spring.

The Tridentine liturgy recognized this diversity in the blessing prayer where the priest intones, "Bless these branches of palm [or olive or any tree]."

So, Spanish missionaries, like Alzina, must have found a pre-existing custom of using *palaspas* and adapted it to the ritual demands of Catholic worship. It is ironic that it is this adapted use (which we safely assume had a far more extensive usage) that has survived the centuries.

Even in the concrete jungle of Manila, there is an annual invasion of *palaspas* where the city's crowded streets and open spaces burst with the colors of freshness.

As early as the Monday before Palm Sunday, jeepney loads of *palaspas* arrive in Manila from Laguna and Quezon. Palm fronds, tightly tied to keep the leaves closed and moist, are brought to Quiapo's *ilalim ng tulay*, one of the major wholesale markets for *palaspas*.

These fronds are cut to a standard size consisting of about 10-12 leaves. A frond may yield between three to five *palaspas*. Then an army of deft hands transforms these fronds to instant works of folk art.

The most common design consists of a handle decorated by bending the coconut leaf in the shape of a heart or weaving it like a mat or shaping it like a sword's hilt, then the remaining leaves cut and folded to form chevrons. Pieces of colored paper are pasted to the tips of these leaves, and a paper flower is attached to the handle of the *palaspas*.

Elaborate motifs

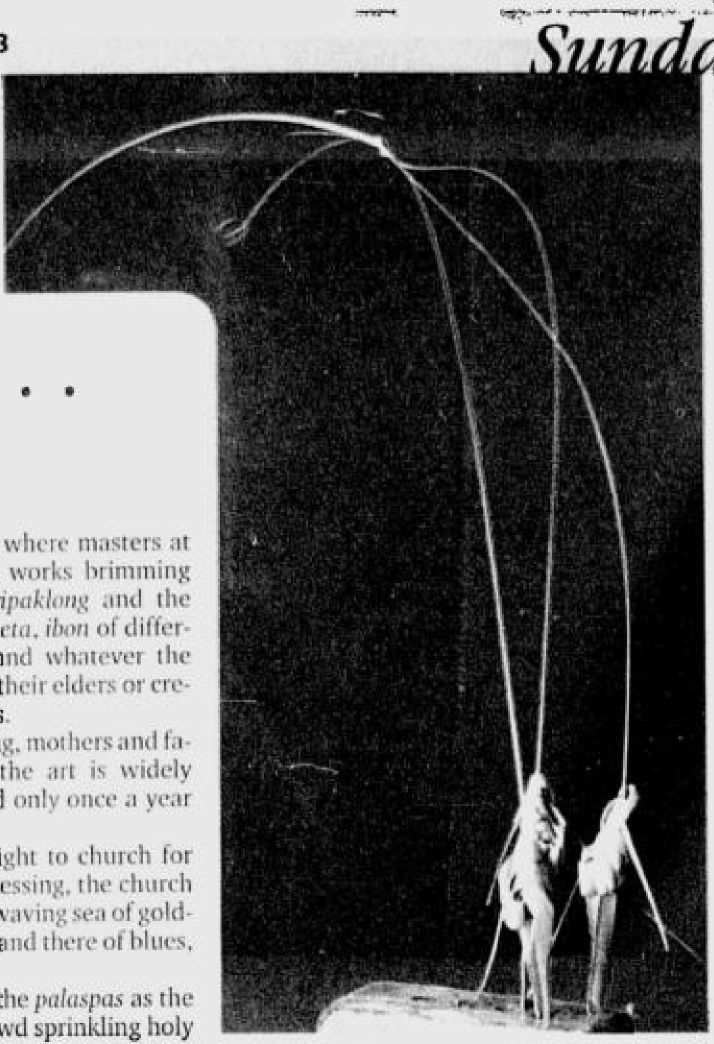
Ilalim ng tulay represents the urbanized, commercial version of decorating palm leaves, hurriedly done but attractive nonetheless.

The less commercial version may be

LEAVES/ C7

Leaves . . .

From page C6



found in provincial towns, where masters at the art produce elaborate works brimming with such motifs as the *tipaklong* and the *ulang, piña, bituin* and *kometa, ibon* of different shapes, *uod, espada*, and whatever the masters have learned from their elders or created out of their own genius.

Where masters are lacking, mothers and fathers will do the job as the art is widely known, although expressed only once a year and only for a day.

When *palaspas* are brought to church for the early morning rite of blessing, the church patio is transformed into a waving sea of golden green with a touch here and there of blues, yellows, reds and pinks.

It is customary to shake the *palaspas* as the priest goes through the crowd sprinkling holy water. The flutter of palm leaves sounds like a violent wind passing through a forest.

Church rites on Palm Sunday may be simple or elaborate, depending on local custom. In many Tagalog towns, four platforms decorated with *palaspas* are raised.

Called Galilea, these platforms are for choirs of young girls who sing "Hosanna to the Son of David." The Palm Sunday procession stops at the Galilea for a prayer and blessing.

In Bulacan, some towns have old women laying indigo-dyed cloth for the priest to tread on as he goes around blessing the palms, in imitation of the Gospel story where Jesus' disciples laid their cloaks along the processional path.

Some priests have resorted to riding a small horse (donkeys are not readily available) both in imitation of the Christ and as a necessity to be able to sprinkle holy water over a wide area and avoid being poked by the *palaspas*, which devotees wave with great enthusiasm and ecstatic abandon.

The practice of bringing an *imahen* of Christ on a donkey found in medieval Germany was apparently not common in Spain, and so was not introduced in the Philippines, although Spanish missions in the Americas did such images mounted on wheels.

Ephemeral art

Palaspas is ephemeral art; here lies its beauty and pathos. The brilliant golden green leaves soon turn to light brown turning darker where they have been folded or cut.

Used in church for the brief duration of a Sunday Mass, the *palaspas* is brought home, displayed above the lintel or on a window, where they age until next year when a fresh frond takes its place.

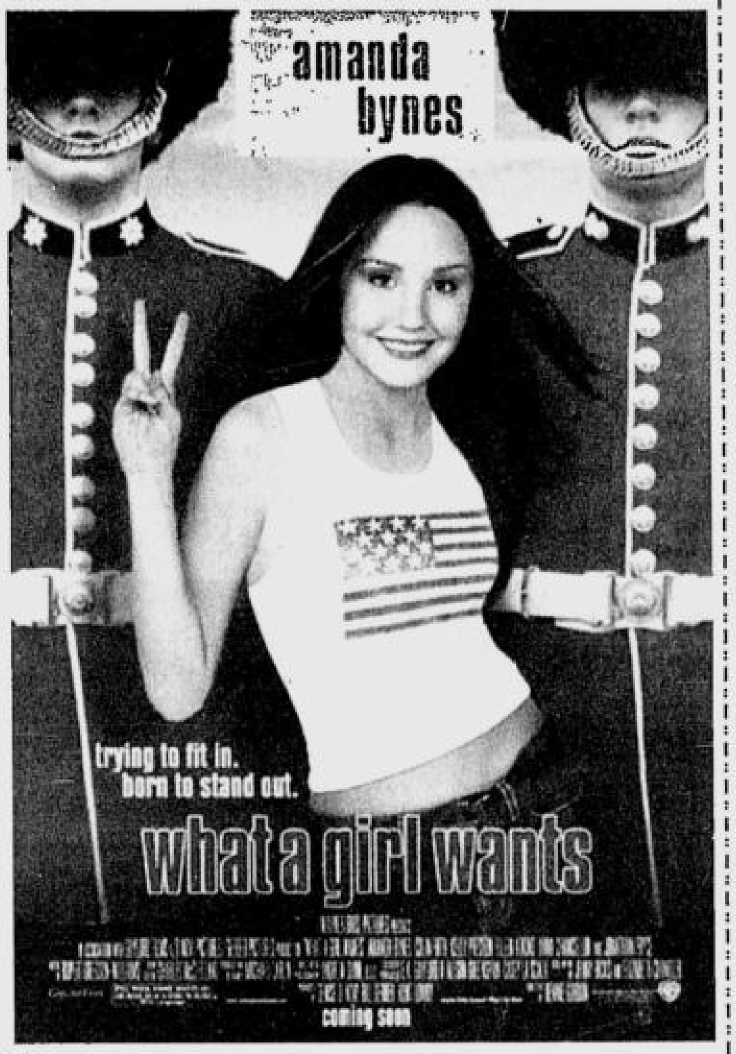
It is believed that the blessed palm wards off evil and is an effective protection against lightning. An older generation would burn the dried palm leaves during a lightning storm as incense offering to prevent disaster, while calling for the intercession of Santa Barbara.

The fronds that decorate the church have an extra chapter in their story. Once mellow brown, these fronds are stored to be burnt the following year on the day of Mardi Gras, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

The palm ashes are crushed, then ground to a fine powder, mixed with some water, and, on Ash Wednesday, blessed for the ritual of mortality, where the priest recites while making a cross of ashes on people's forehead, "Memento, remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Thus passes the glory of Palm Sunday, the glory of the *palaspas*. *Sic transit gloria mundi*.

The author is a writer and artist based in Ateneo de Manila University.



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Women's group holds Lenten recollection

THE RELIGIOUS of the Virgin Mary, the largest indigenous congregation for religious women in the Philippines, is holding a Lenten Recollection for Families on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Black Saturday at the RVM Mother House Compound, N. Domingo Street, Quezon City.

The Holy Thursday recollection starts at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani of the Diocese of Novaliches leads the conference speakers on the theme, "Washing of the Feet: As I have done for you, you should also do." Other speakers are Fr. Maxell Lowell Aranilla for the youth, and RVM Sr. Ma. Tessamy Quisquirin and Ma. Francisca Manibo for the children.

On Good Friday, the recollection begins with a Way of the Cross at 6 a.m. At 10 a.m., the conference on "The Passion and Death of Jesus: The Ultimate Letting Go for the Sake of Love" begins. Speakers are Fr. Mariano Agruda III, OCD, for adults, Bro. Arun Cogna for the youth, and Sr. Ma. Edesa Alibuga, RVM, for the children.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will be held at 3 p.m. A procession of Our Lady of Sorrow follows at 7 p.m.

On Black Saturday, the conference beginning at 10 a.m. will be on "Mary at the Foot of the Cross." Speakers will be Fr. Alfredo Sabado, SVD, for adults, Bro. George Gabriel for the youth, and RVM Sr. Ma. Riz Lorion and Ma. Els Rioveros for children.

Confession begins at 11 a.m. Four priests—Frs. Jose Vidamor Yu, Adeodato Malabana, SVD, and Peter Michael, SVD, and Msgr. Cesar Raval, SVD, will be on hand to hear confession.

Our Lady of Guadalupe enthronement

A SOLEMN enthronement ceremony of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held at Manila Metropolitan Cathedral on April 22, 7 p.m. to be officiated by His Most Reverend Bishop Teodoro J. Buhain Jr. and Monsignor Nestor Cerbo, rector of Manila Cathedral.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 50th year of Filipino-Mexican diplomatic relations, Cemex Philippines donates two digitalized laser true copies of the original portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe (measuring 1.72 m x 1.07 m) to the Archdiocese of Manila and Archdiocese of Cebu.

In 2002, the company renovated and reopened the Kapilya ni San Jose Manggagawa in Tagbak, Antipolo, Rizal, recognizing St. Joseph as the patron saint of workers.

Enthronement ceremony for Our Lady of Guadalupe is also scheduled at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral on May 7, 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week tour of the North

CAUSEWAY Tours will hold a Lenten season tour on April 15-19.

The tour will take participants to the oldest, grandest and most picturesque Philippine churches in the provinces of Isabela, Cagayan, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

Bonus treats in this pilgrimage include a visit to Callao Caves in Cagayan and a three-hour stopover for a cool dip at Pagudpud's famous ivory beach in Ilocos Norte. Call 851-7294, 853-8728 or 0916-396-3963.

Caritas Manila turns gold

CARITAS Manila launches its Golden Jubilee Celebration today, Palm Sunday.

All parishes in the Archdiocese of Manila, Diocese of Parañaque and Diocese of Novaliches will observe Caritas Sunday by allocating Mass collections to fund programs for the poor.

The public is also invited to visit the Caritas bazaar and to view the photo exhibits in different parishes on Caritas Sunday.

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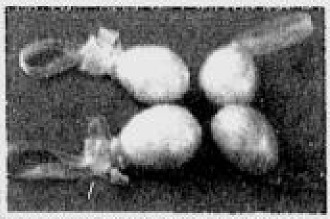

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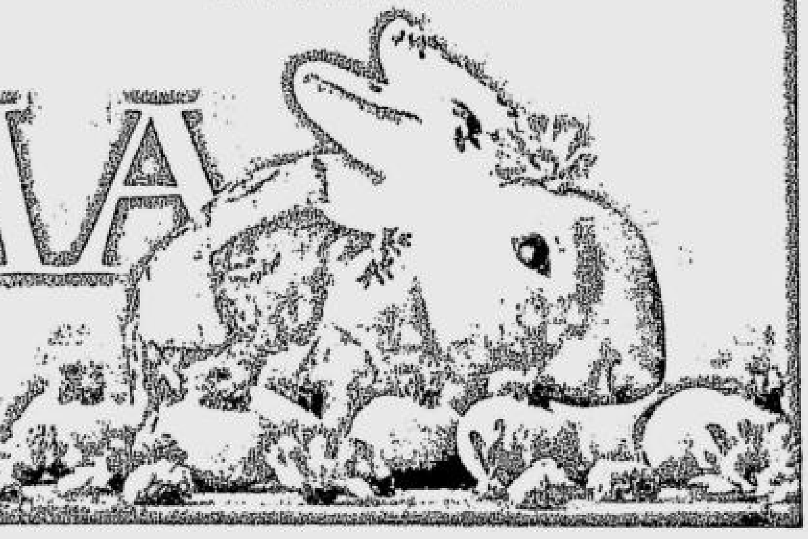

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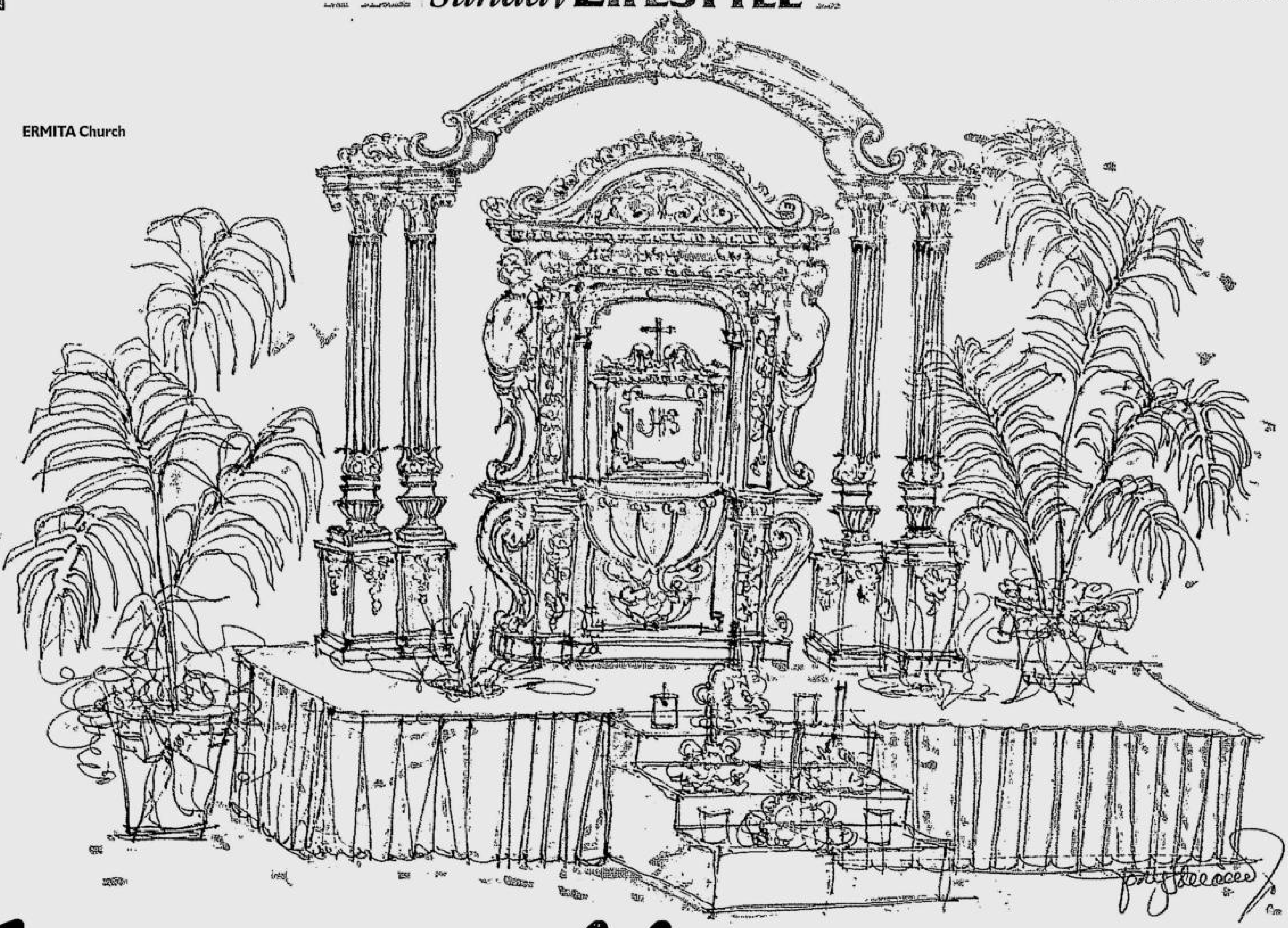

ERMITA Church

Spiritually rewarding tour

The Catholic Faithful can spend part of their long weekend visiting some outstanding churches

Intramuros during the Spanish time was Manila. Outside the walls were enclaves for the Indios and christianized Chinese.

Intramuros remained, for everyone, the civic and religious center of the archipelago. All government, educational and religious institutions found their home *"intra moros"* or "inside the walls."

The Spanish friars, from the very beginning, sought to transfer to their new converts traditions derived from their Iberian roots. One of these traditions was the religious procession.

Lent in Manila begins on Ash Wednesday. The onset of Holy Thursday, heralds a three-day series of religious devotions, notable of which are the Visitas de las Iglesias on Maundy Thursday, the Siete Palabras or Seven Last Words on Good Friday, and the *salubong* on Easter Sunday.

Visitas de las iglesias involves visits to several churches on foot starting from 3 p.m. Of course, at the time of the Spaniards, it was easier to do the visits since all the churches were in Intramuros and only a stone's throw from each other. Notable among the churches were the Dominican's Sto. Domingo, the Franciscan's San Francisco, the Jesuit's San Ignacio and the Recollect's Del Carmen.

The practice of visiting churches created traffic jams in places favored by devotees. Notables were the Manila Cathedral, San Agustin, Quiapo, Sta. Cruz and Baclaran, to name a few. In these churches, cars jostled for precious parking space, not to mention hundreds of people in informal processions.

There is no consensus on how many churches should be be visited. Some say seven for the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin; others say 13 for the Stations of the Cross. But then there are actually 14 stations. Popular piety does not include the 14th station, the "Burial of Jesus," because that part is saved for Good Friday, which makes practical sense.

Churches during Holy Thursday seem to try to outdo each other in erecting an "Altar of Repose" where the Blessed Sacrament is displayed for the adoration of the faithful. In the past years, several churches in the metropolis even enlisted the help of decorators for the purpose.

Among the more prominent of these is Tony S. Adriano, an interior designer and furniture manufacturer, whose own personal piety inspired him to use his talent in refurbishing churches, and designing and manufacture of *retablos*. With designs that are old world in charm and character, several parishes in Manila have availed of his services. The churches are worth visiting during the lenten season. To name a few:

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Marilao, Bulacan—The *retablo* has an empire period design and hand-carved accents gilded with 23-karat gold leaf over walnut finish. Solomonic columns flank the main niche with the crucified Christ. A hand-carved relief of the Coronation of the Virgin and St. Michael, the church's patron, flank both sides of the main alcove. Noteworthy are the carved oval frames enclosing the four evangelists. Liberal application of gold leaf puts the worshiper in awe of the magnificence of the design.

San Jose de Navotas Parish, Navotas, Manila—Done in the high Baroque Period style, the main *retablo* is flanked by two side altars, which are smaller versions of the main *retablo*, echoing the grandeur of the overall design. Hand-carved accents are done in gold leaf. A central niche with the crucified Christ is flanked by St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin, both enclosed in a half shell-dome. The tier shows two cherubs crowned with the inscription IHS and topped by a gilded dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit.

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City—The parish prides itself in owning an image of the crucified Christ done by a National Artist. Adriano played down his design in order not to distract from the image. His minimalist design used less gilding and details. The *retablo* is framed by simple square ionic columns, with minimum details. Side altars, scaled down versions of the main altar,

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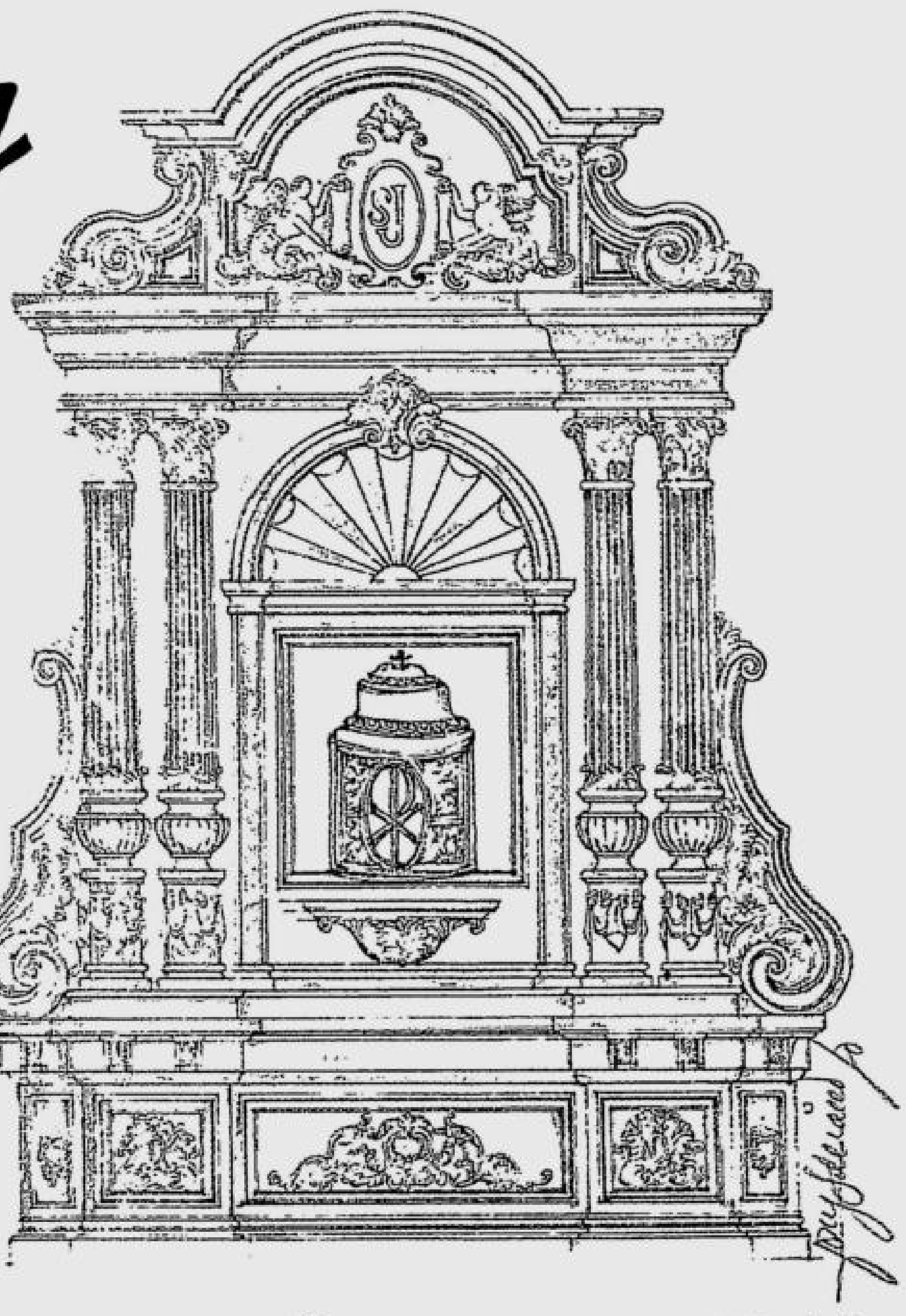

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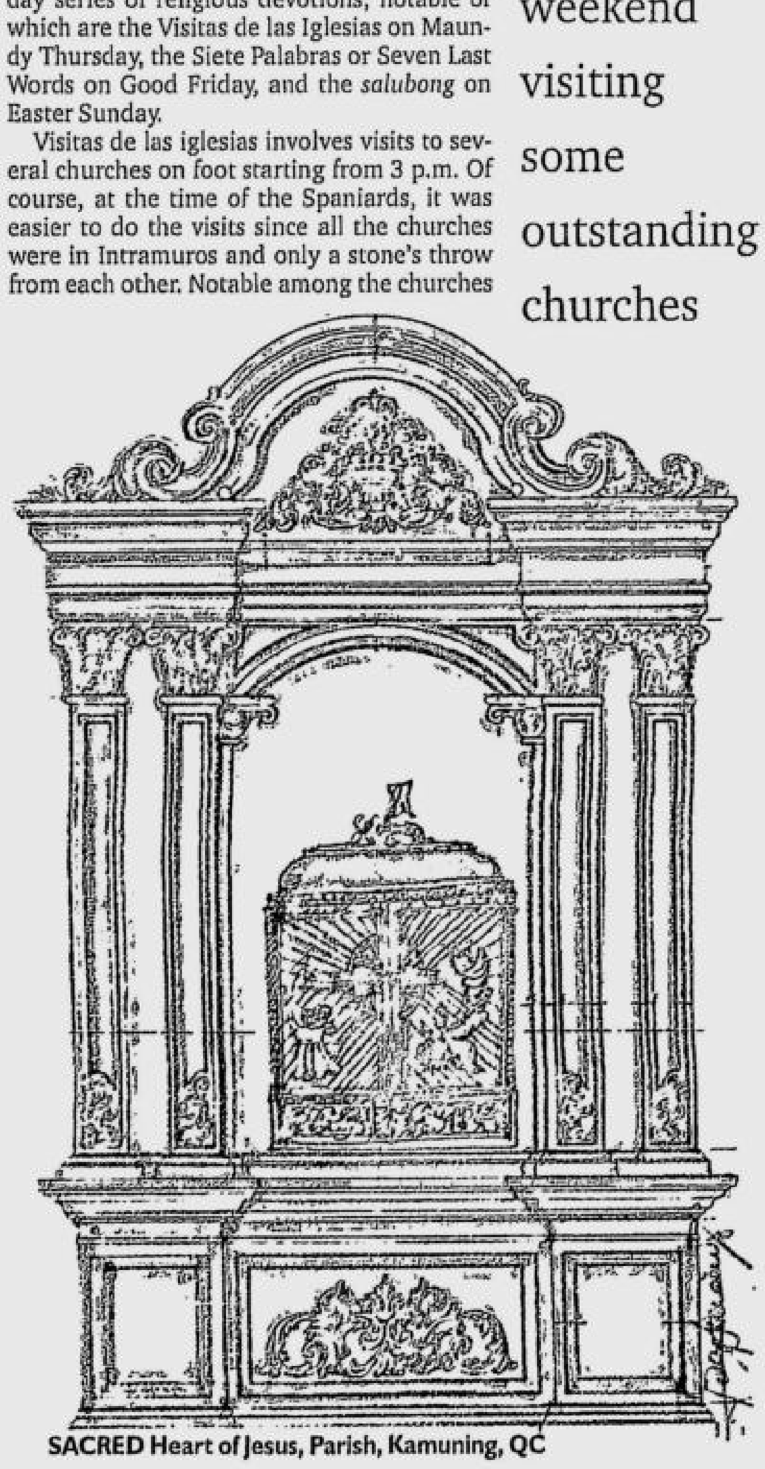

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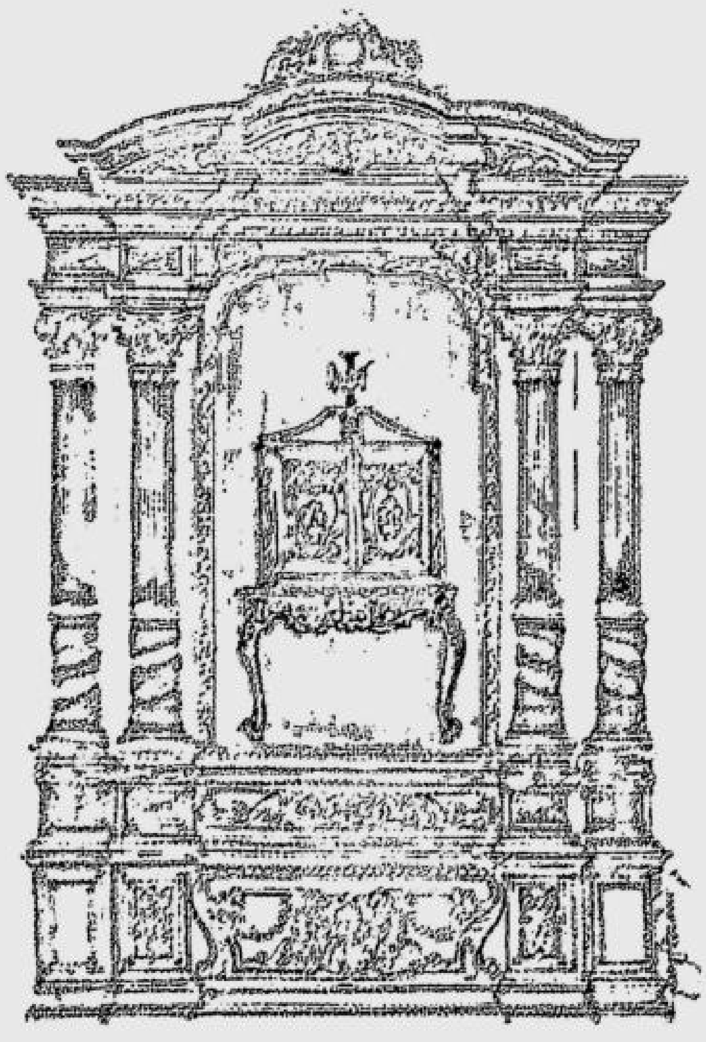


ST. Michael de Archangel Parish, Marilao, Bulacan

TONY S. Adriano

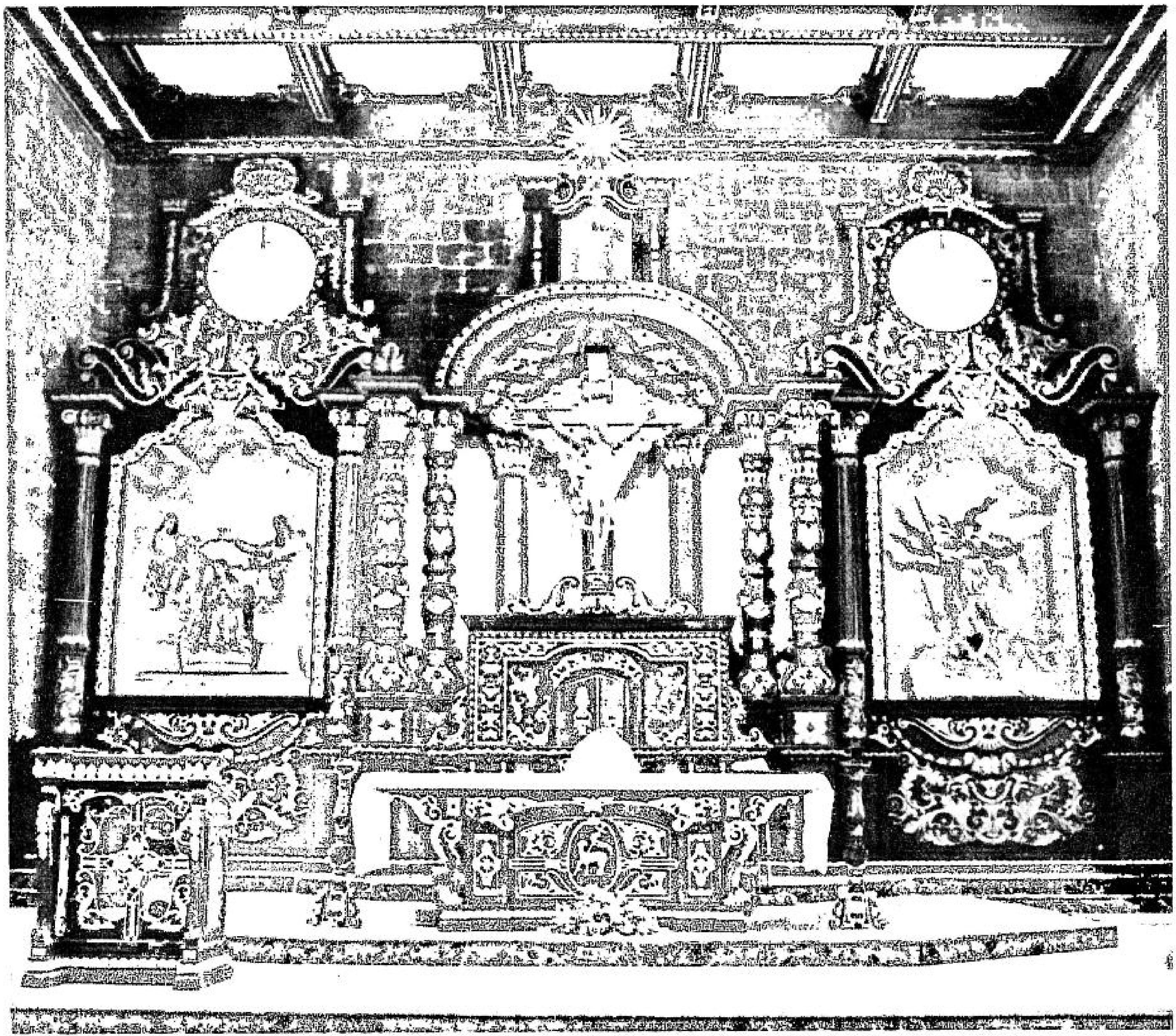
Spirituality . . .

From page D2

flank the main *retablo*.

Sta. Ana Parish, Taguig, Metro Manila—Done in simplified empire style in white and gold, the design is a careful study in minimalism, with the eyes seemingly pulled towards the image of Christ. Below it is the antique image of St. Anne with the Blessed Virgin, enclosed in an alcove all their own, with a plate glass cover. Dramatic use of lights emphasizes the simplicity of the over-all design. A joyful mixture of solomonic and Corinthian columns flank the main altar, unifying the design.

However one views these designs, says Adriano, "let us not forget that the main purpose of each is to glorify our Creator in the Most Blessed Sacrament where he is truly present"



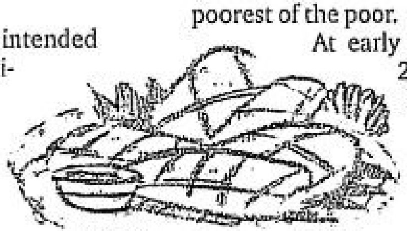
ST. Michael de Archangel Parish, Marilao, Bulacan

CARIDAD, an old Maundy Thursday tradition

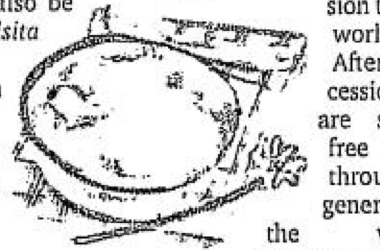
The mandate of charity

By Msgr. Josefino S. Ramirez

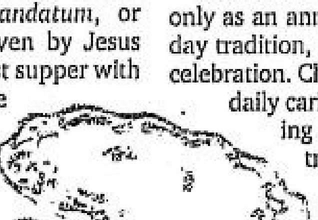
"*CARIDAD*" is an old Holy Thursday tradition of setting up along side streets tables overflowing with native delicacies such as rice cakes, *puto maya* and *guinataan*, a rich *merienda* of assorted fruits like boiled *monggo* beans, *saba* or native bananas, taro and *camote* simmered in coconut milk. All these are served with a glassful of *sago* (tapioca) or other fruit juices.



This custom is intended to welcome visitors, pilgrims or relatives, rich and poor alike, who come to the *poblacion* to attend the liturgical service in the parish church on Maundy Thursday. These people usually come to help decorate *carrozas* for the *santos* for the Holy Week procession. They may also be pilgrims making their *visita iglesia*.



Indeed, *caridad* is an act of charity for everyone (*caridad* is Spanish for "charity"). It is celebrated every Maundy Thursday when the new mandate ("maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, or "mandate") was given by Jesus Christ during His last supper with His apostles. "Love one another as I have loved you." Jn 13:34



Today, Binondo parishioners, especially the devotees of St. Joseph, have taken up this annual practice and made it a daily celebration of charity with the poorest of the poor.

At early dawn, about 200 beggars, homeless and jobless persons gather together every day at the Parish of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Binondo. These people come to participate in a daily penitential dawn procession to pray for world peace. After the procession, they are served a free meal through the generosity of the well-to-do parishioners.

And so the *caridad* lives on not only as an annual Maundy Thursday tradition, but as a daily joyful celebration. Charity, after all, is the daily caring, sharing and loving of one another as a true follower of Christ.

The author is the rector of the Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila.

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The call of the bells

By Regalado Trota Jose

"They called the faithful to prayer, and their tolling at sunset was like the very benediction of God upon the earth and upon mankind."—I.V. Mallari, "Vanishing Dawn" (Manila, 1954)

WESTERN-TYPE church bells—diminutive cascabeles given as gifts—were introduced to the Philippines by Magellan in 1521. As Spanish colonization of the islands progressed, bells came to play an increasingly important part in Filipino life. They called the faithful to church and announced milestones in people's lives such as weddings and funerals. In 1796, the Archbishop of Manila, Fray Juan Antonio de Orbigo y Gallego, published a booklet regulating the ringing of church bells.

The Philippine dawn was announced by the ringing of the Ave Maria; work stopped at noon with the Plegaria; everybody stood still to pray the Oracion at 6 in the evening; just before turning to bed, prayers were said for the souls in Purgatory, led by the Animas bell; after the ringing of the Agonias, meant to remind the faithful to pray for those in the throes of death, complete silence was to reign.

These hours are reflections of those rung in European monasteries: *laudes* (the break of dawn), *prima* (7 a.m.), *tercia* (9 a.m.), *sexta* (midday), *nona* (3 p.m.), *visperas* (6 p.m.), and *completas* (nighttime).

It was only in Holy Week when the bells were silenced. No bells were rung from the Gloria of the Mass on Jueves Santo until the Gloria of Black Saturday (whence Sabado de Gloria). Instead of bells, services and processions were punctuated by the clanging of wooden noisemakers called *matracas* (or fracas in Visayan-speaking regions). These were kept in belltowers but heard only during the climax of Holy Week. The *matraca* (a Spanish word derived from the Arabic "mitraca," a hammer) consisted of a long, hollow wooden box fitted with a wooden gear at one end. This gear, when cranked, hit a wooden "tongue," thus producing a constant, rattling noise. A small portable *matraca* is still carried at the head of the Holy Thursday and Good Friday processions in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Materials and types of bells

The bells that we see hanging in towers are made of cast bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. While the presence of these metals was noted by Spanish chroniclers, very little was mined because it was easier to obtain these through trade with the Chinese. The extraction of copper in the mountains north of Baguio made some progress only in the 1870s. Other parts of the bell such as its clapper (*badajo*) and supporting bars were of iron. Similarly, although iron was worked in the mines of Angat, Bulacan, since the 18th century, iron ingots from China proved more economical.

Although "campana" is the generic term for bell used in the country, there are in fact other types of bells. A *campana* rotated on its axis, as if it were turning somersaults, is an *esquila* or *campana do vuelo*. It is distinguished by its heavy wooden yoke, which acts as a counterbalance. A *campanilla* was a handbell rung by altar boys during the various parts of the Mass. A dozen or so *campanillas* mounted on a *rueda* or wheel provided a joyful clangor to underline the Gloria of the Mass. Ruedas with smaller bells or *cascabeles* high atop pipe organs accompanied musical passages with a brilliant pealing. Much smaller *cascabeles* tinkled from the sides of chalices, monstrances or banners as these were carried in procession.

Unknown to most people, bells carry information, which makes them documents in the study of history and culture. In the old days, bells were baptized and given names of saints, which were inscribed on the bell. In a number of places, the townsfolk themselves gave the bells nicknames—one bell in Pasig, for example, is fondly called "Teng." Many times, the year of casting, the weight of the bell, the name of the parish priest or donor, the name of the town, and even the name of the bellcaster were inscribed as well on the bell.

Bellcasters and foundry sites

We do not know when bells were first cast in the Philippines, but their manufacture is intimately linked with ironworkers and blacksmiths. A blacksmith, Panday Pira, was hired by Legazpi because of his expertise in casting the local cannon or *lantaka*. According to some sources, Panday Pira was a native of Pampanga and lived from 1488 to 1576. It is possible that a number of bells were cast by the side of belltowers, as was done by itinerant bellcasters in Spain.

The earliest Spanish foundry in Manila seems to have been established by the last quarter of the 16th century in the vicinity of what was then Calle Fundición (now Muralla) and Baluarte de la Fundición (now Baluarte de San Diego) in Intramuros. This site was eventually replaced by another foundry in the Maestranza, the artillery manufacturing plant whose ruins today can be seen just in front of the main gate of Fort Santiago, Intramuros. From this foundry emerged the imposing bronze statue of Carlos IV, still standing in front of the Manila Cathedral. It was cast from 1806 to 1808 by Ambrocio Casas, whose name appears on a number of bells cast between 1809 and 1823. (Ambrocio Casas' daughter eventually married Damian Domingo, the painter).

The most prolific bellcaster was Hilario Sunico, whose shop in San Nicolas, Manila, turned out bells from the 1870s to the 1930s. The street of Sunico's shop, Jaboneros, ran into Camba Street, the site of another bellcaster's shop, that of Santos Supangco. The location of foundries in San Nicolas, adjoining Binondo and across the Pasig River from Intramuros, was a natural development of the district's lying next to the port of Manila. (Another street, Fundidor, is only a couple of blocks away from the Sunico and Supangco ateliers).

The descendants of these foundries still operate on Camba and Jaboneros streets; their bell production is virtually nil, but they still turn out anchors and heavy chains for the maritime industry. Smaller foundries were established in Cebu, Iloilo (there is a barrio called Fundidor in Molo, near the port of Iloilo), and elsewhere. The largest bell in the Philippines, Dakong Lingganay in Pan-ay, Capiz, was cast in 1878 by the Iloilo blacksmith, Juan Reina.

While it may conjectured that the majority of bells were cast locally, a small number of bells from Spain, Mexico and even the United States reached the country before 1898.

In turn, some Philippine-made bells reached foreign shores. The cathedral of Agana, Guam, still possesses a bell it commissioned from Hilario Sunico in 1923.

The oldest known bell in the Philippines is dated 1595, and hangs in Camalaniugan, Cagayan. A bell is said to have been cast in this same year, for the church in Pasig, but this does not exist anymore.

A still earlier bell from 1573 was noted by an 18th century Augustinian in Batangas, but this cannot be located. The second oldest-known bell bears the date 1608, and hangs from the tower of Cebu Cathedral.

The dearth in early bells is due to two main reasons: wars and mishandling. The lack of metal forced the requisition of church bells to be melted into cannons, as in 1639 when Governor General Corcuera caused the transformation of 90 bells into cannons for the war effort in Mindanao.

Filipino revolutionaries of the late 19th century recast bells into artillery in improvised foundries all over the country.

During the Filipino-American War, it was not only Balangiga, Samar, which lost its bells to American troops. In a formal complaint filed by the Archdiocese of Manila in 1903, the following towns were also deprived of their bells: Paco, Caloocan and Navotas (Metro Manila); Polo, Bulacan; Gandara and Paranas, Samar; and La Paz and Dumangas, Iloilo.

As for mishandling, inexperienced striking of bells has led to cracks and breakage. This has led to the recasting of many old bells. In not a few cases, older bells were given away by parishes to younger churches or even chapels. This explains why older parishes do not necessarily have old bells, and why new churches may have ancient bells.

Heritage

There is still so much to learn about our church bells. We have to interview the senior *campaneros* or bellringers on how they signaled the hours and other ceremonies through bell-ringing. We have to measure the bells and record their tones. Other traditions regarding bells should be documented.

Bells are important historical and cultural legacies. If at all possible, the recasting of old, cracked bells into new ones should be prevented; the old one should be preserved and, if not used anymore, brought down to make it more accessible to parishioners and visitors. We can do our share in the protection of our heritage by caring for, studying and promoting our church bells.

The author is the chair of NCCA Committee on Monuments and Sites

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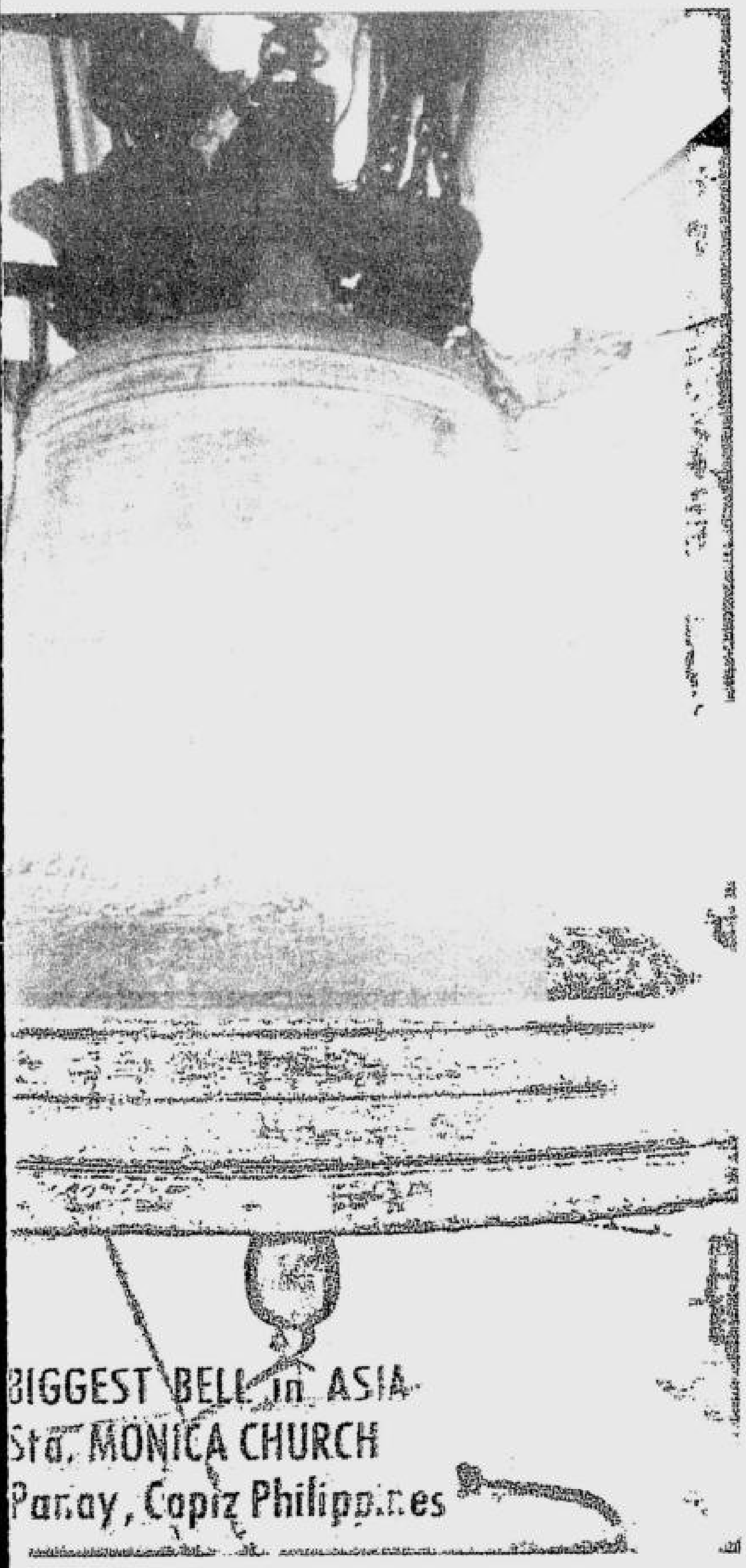

A family's golden tradition

FOR the past 50 years, the image of Jesus Christ falling for the third time as He carried His cross to Mount Calvary has allowed the family to return to God the blessings it has received and to atone for sins.

The image of Christ suffering from intense pain, fatigue and hunger has become a source of strength and inspiration. He showed, that despite being the Son of God, He allowed himself to be humiliated and mocked.

It all started in 1952 when the family patriarch, the late Jesus, decided that an offer of penance through prayers and "work" every Holy Week should be imposed. He wanted to return to God the blessings the family received that allowed it to have a good and comfortable life.

The Rebustillos acquired a float depicting Christ's third fall on His way to be nailed to the cross. For the past 50 years, the float had given the Rebustillo family the strength to overcome the difficulties they encountered. The family prepared the float each Holy Week, not allowing even a death in the family to divert them from their commitment.

Over the years, the float's three images had become almost members of the family and treated with utmost care.

Dehlia, the family matriarch who did not raise any objections to her husband's decision five decades ago, carries on the tradition.

The Rebustillo couple contracted the late Castro Vibar, known for his life-size and traditional images and the foremost local sculptor in their home province of Albay, to make the images.

One year later, barely a month before Holy Week in 1952, Castro presented three life-size images—Christ in a prone position carrying a cross with his head inclined upwards, a person helping Him support the heavy burden, and a Roman centurion.

Preparation of the *caro* immediately started, with even the little boys Jim and Johnnie, then 4 and 2-years-old, helping.

Dehlia said it was during the procession that the family and their friends felt the offer of penance truthfully.

The float stayed in Balintawak with her parents for two years after. It returned to Albay for good in mid-1954.

With the children all grown up (two more came after the float was acquired, Jesse and Dehna), the work of caring for the images during Holy Week was divided among them.

After 50 years, even grandchildren have started to help. The family has also received help from many people the past five decades.

THE REBUSTILLOS acquired a float depicting Christ's third fall as a way to return the blessings they received.

These include regular donors Cely Rivera, Don Cleofe, Wilson Malano, Leonardo and Zelda Napay-Monilla; carpenters Rustico Esplana, Lorenzo Banzuela, Andres Mendeville of Putting Daga, Munding of Sto. Cristo, Noli and Percy Malate, and Liby and Merto of Pinaric; the late Jose Locsin and the late Delfin Co; electrician Paeng of Daraga; guides Francisco Racal and his sons, Leopoldo and Expedito; garage/parking space Anggie Honrado; drivers the late Tor Abrique, Oscar de la Torre, the late Quirico Nascion, the late PC Sgt. Benito Calleja, who has been replaced by his son in 1973, Manuel, in driving the wheels of the float.

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O-Town
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Sumayaw Sumunod
Ogie Alcasid
SUMUNOD

Pretty Baby
Vanessa Carlton
PRETTYBABY

How Do I Live
Trisha Yearwood
HOWDOI

Someday We'll Know
Mandy Moore
WILKNOW

Lovesong For No One
John Mayer
SONG4NO1

I'm With You
Avril Lavigne
IMWITHU

Dilemma
Nelly and Kelly Rowland
DILEMMA

The Real Slim Shady
Eminem
SLIMSHADY

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David Pomeranz
KINGNQUEEN

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Sexbomb
BAKITPAPA

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Vanessa Carlton
THOUSAND

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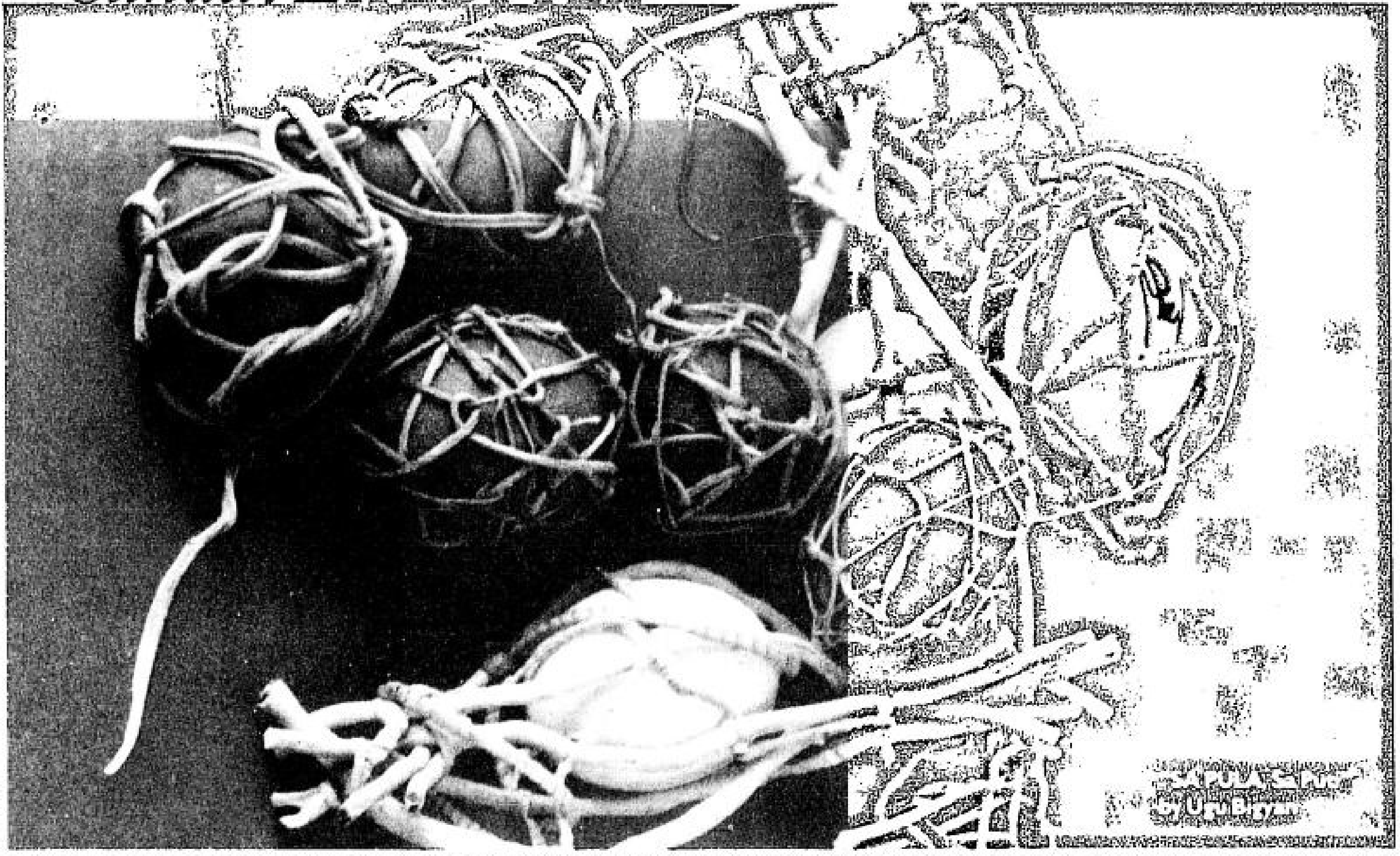
"APPROPRIATE" by Allison David



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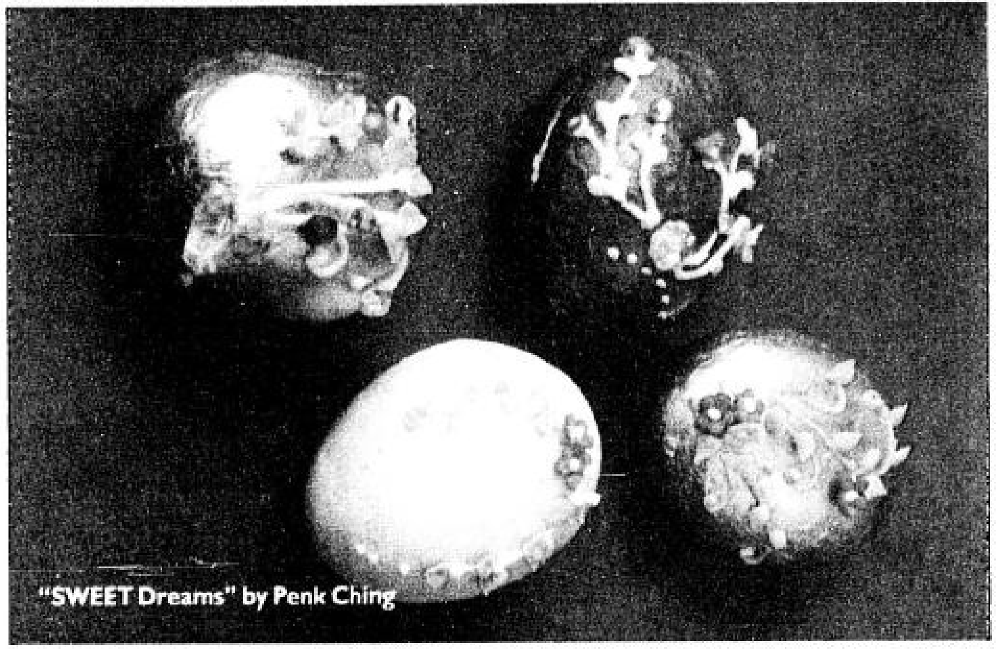
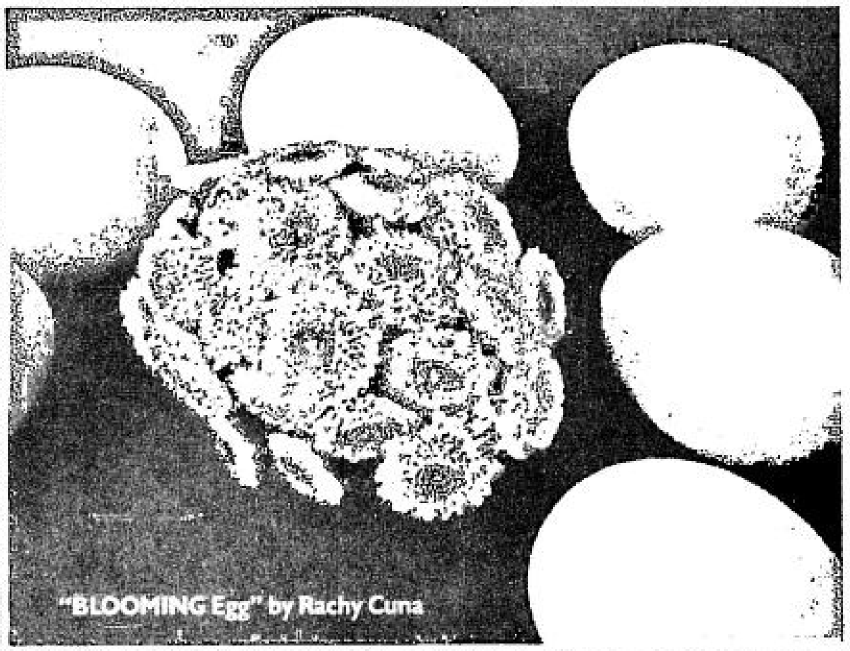
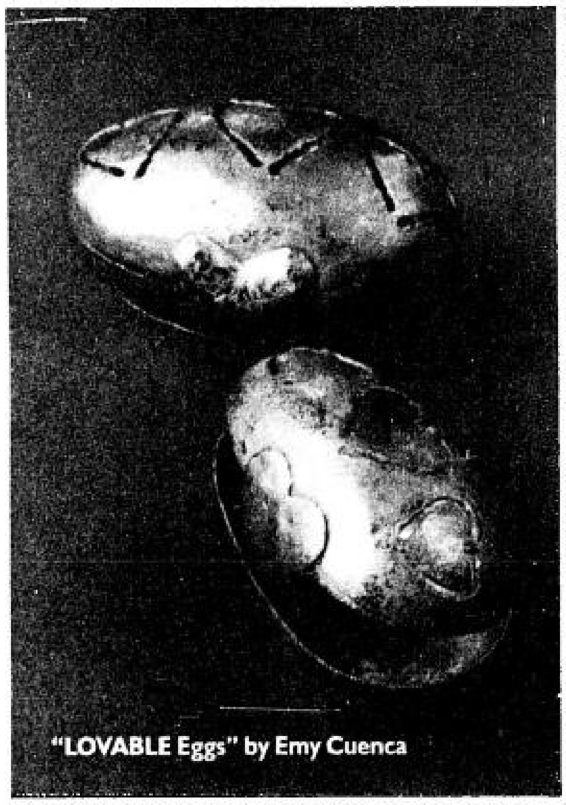


"SWEET Dreams" by Penk Ching

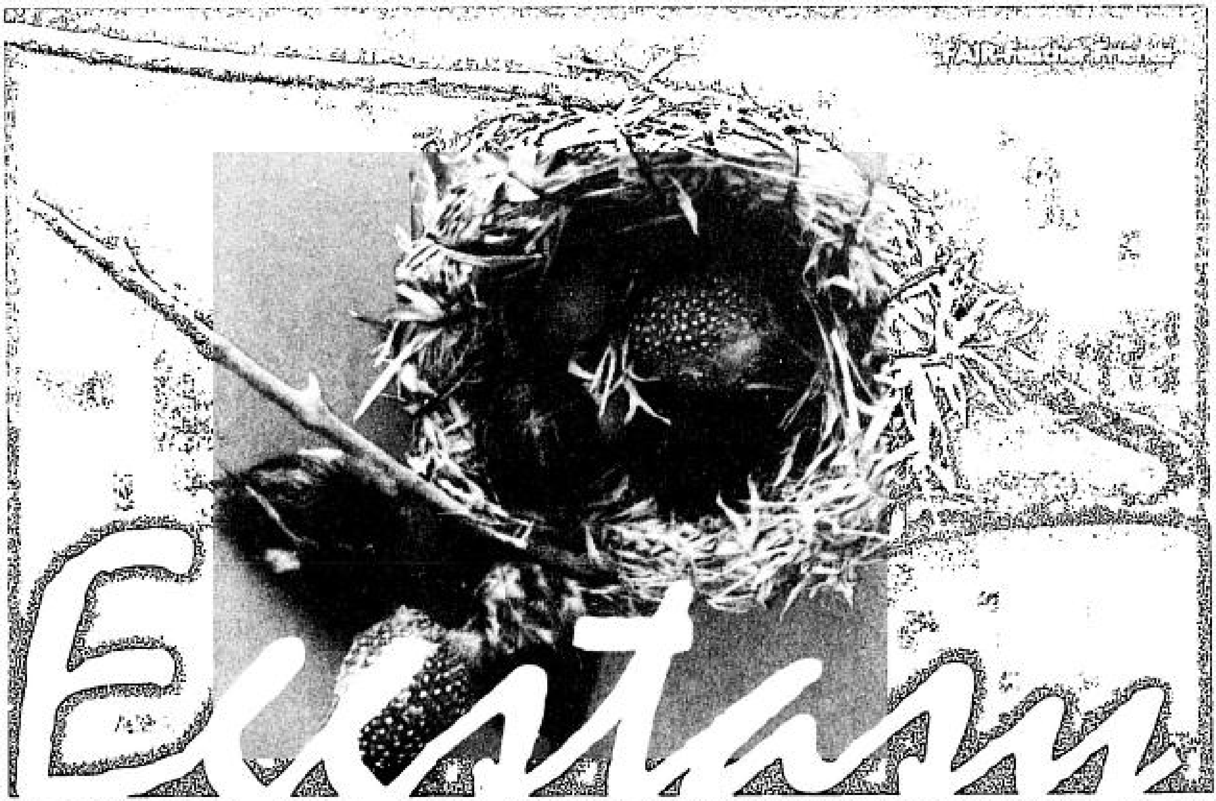
"MADONNA and Child" by [illegible]



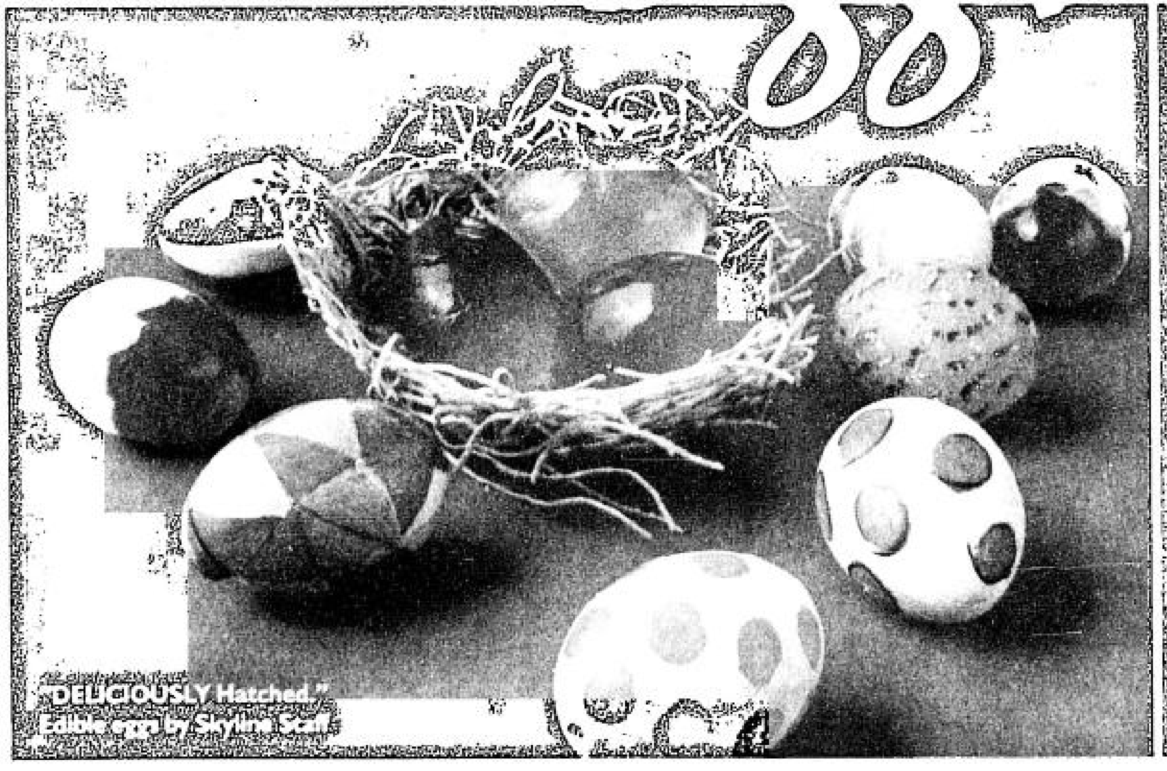
"BLOOMING Egg" by Rachy Cuna



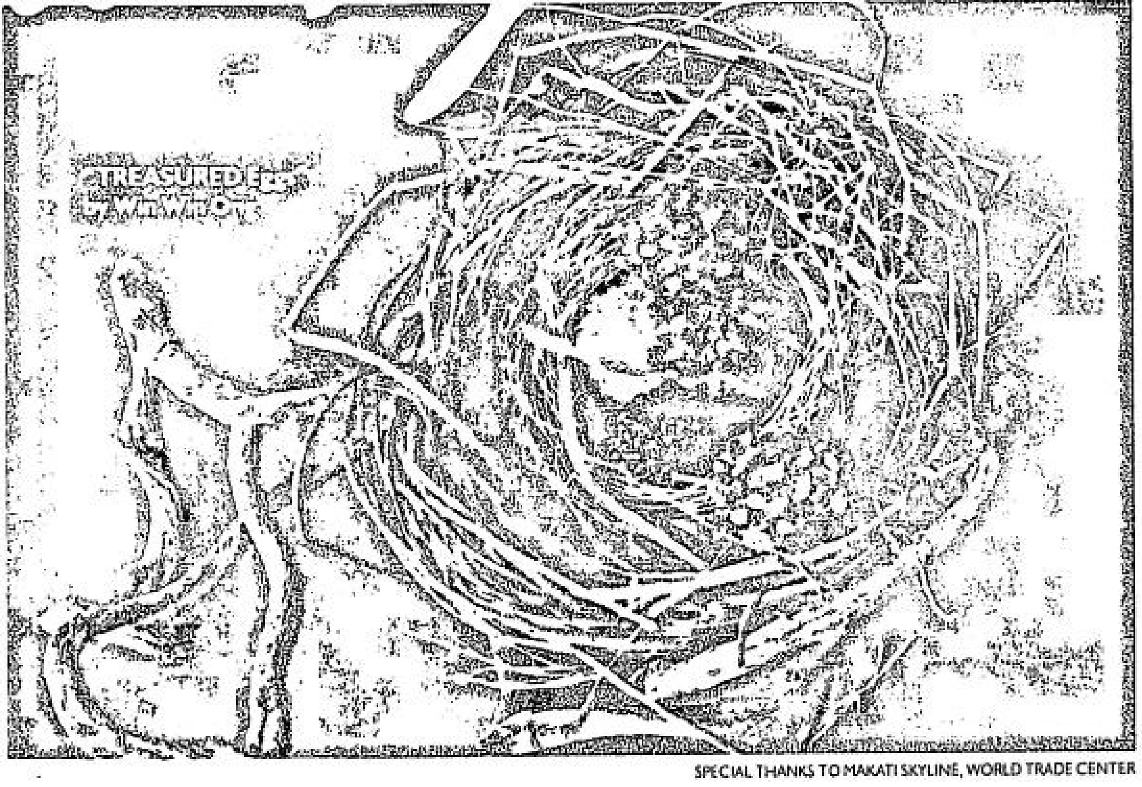
"LOVABLE Eggs" by Emy Cuenca



"HOW [illegible]



"DELICIOUSLY Hatched."
Edible eggs by Skyline [illegible]



"TREASURED Egg" [illegible]

SPECIAL THANKS TO MAKATI SKYLINE, WORLD TRADE CENTER

Easter eggs aren't just about fun and games. They are a symbol of humankind's rebirth after Christ's death.

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Bobot Meru

FROM Jesus Christ's Resurrection after dying for humankind's sins to the gaily colored Easter egg may seem quite a stretch.

With many other feasts and holidays being co-opted by commercial establishments, creating symbols that have nothing to do with the event being marked, it is easy to believe that the Easter egg is just another gimmick cooked up to increase sales.

But various accounts of the history of one of the most widely recognized symbols of Easter suggest that the "egg" is very much part of the tradition. It probably has an even more legitimate claim to its place in what is regarded as the most important Christian religious feast, than other activities and items associated with the event.

One Internet site reported that respect for the egg actually predated its association with Easter. In pagan times, it represented the rebirth of the earth. It was part of ancient rites-of-spring festivals, revered as the symbol of the universe, by cultures as diverse as the Romans, Chinese, Egyptians, Gauls and Persians.

Decorated with colors or gilt, the egg was already considered a symbol of Earth's continuing life and resurrection in pre-Christian spring celebrations.

But the spread of Christianity gave the egg a new symbolism. Instead of representing Nature's springing back to life after winter, it became the symbol of humankind's rebirth, after Christ died for its sins. The new Christians reportedly embraced the egg symbol as they likened it to Jesus' tomb.

Polish legends, it is said, even blended folklore and Christian beliefs to firmly link the egg and Easter.

One legend tells of how the Virgin Mary gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross, begging them not to be too cruel to her son. The distraught mother's tears fell upon the eggs, giving them brightly colored spots.

Another legend tells about Mary Magdalene visiting Jesus' tomb carrying a basket of eggs. At the sepulcher, the pure white shells of the eggs, miraculously took on a rainbow of colors.

What make the Easter egg, of course, are the rainbow of colors and decoration. The Easter egg has been dyed, painted, adorned and embellished.

In the days when kings, queens, emperors and empresses ruled, the eggs were not only dyed and painted. They were also studded with precious and semiprecious stones, probably making them part of the crown jewels now.

The most lavish would, no doubt, be the Fabergé eggs associated with the Russian czars. It was originally said to be made in 1883 by the Russian jeweler of French descent, Peter Carl Fabergé, for Alexander as an Easter gift to his wife, Empress Marie.

When the empress liked it so much, Alexander decided to make it an annual Easter offering. His son, Nicholas, not only succeeded him on the throne but also carried on the tradition of giving a Fabergé egg as an Easter gift to his czarina.

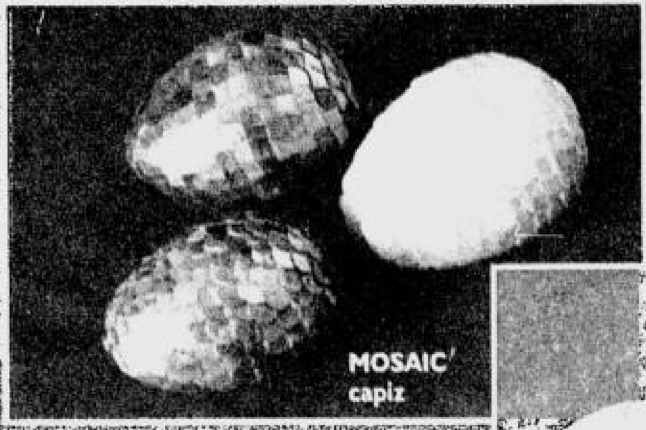
The royal Easter gift-giving, historical records say, produced a total of 57 of what became popularly known as the Fabergé eggs.

E-mail the author at linda@fatmails.com

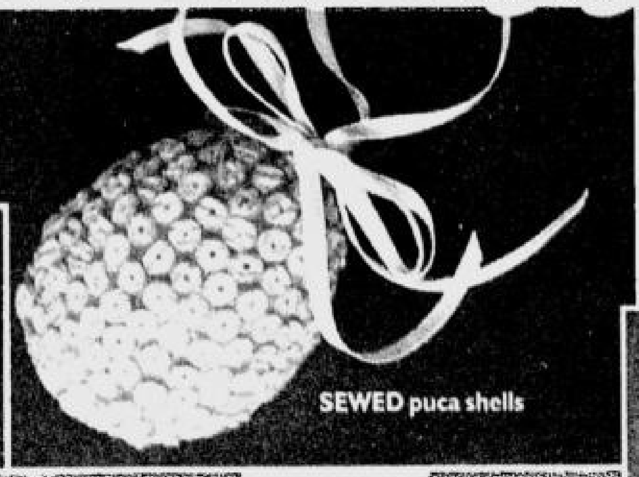
Easter hunts find RP 'eggsport'

ON EASTER [illegible]

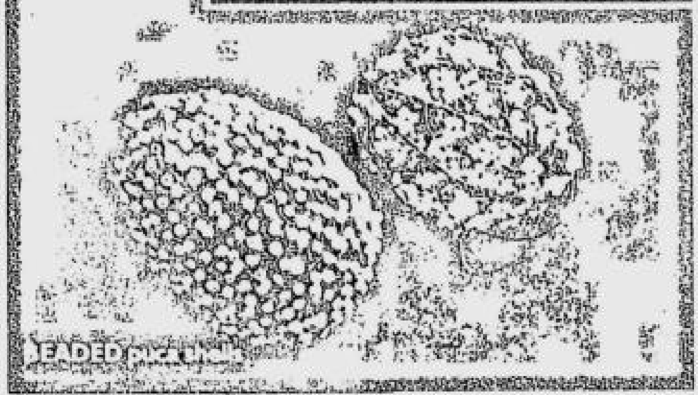
[illegible]



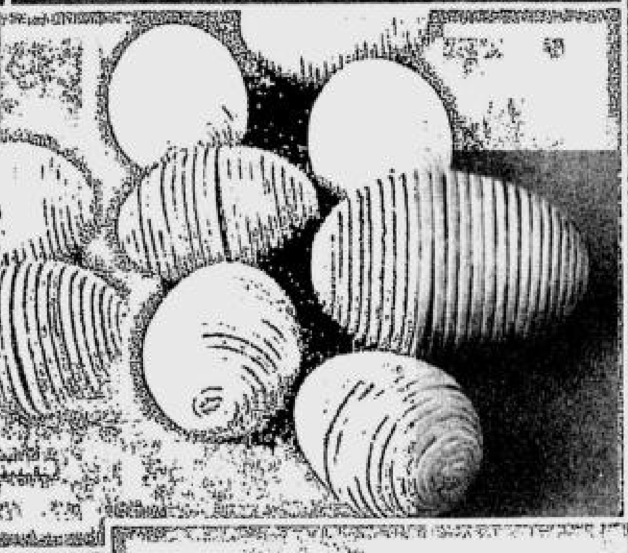
MOSAIC capiz



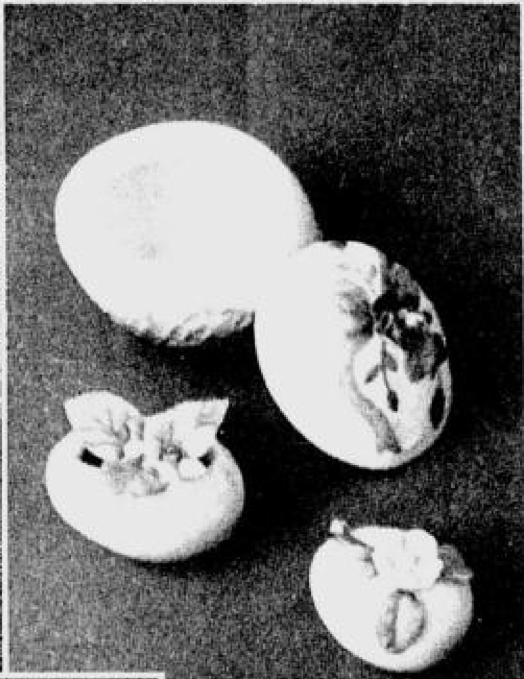
SEWED puca shells



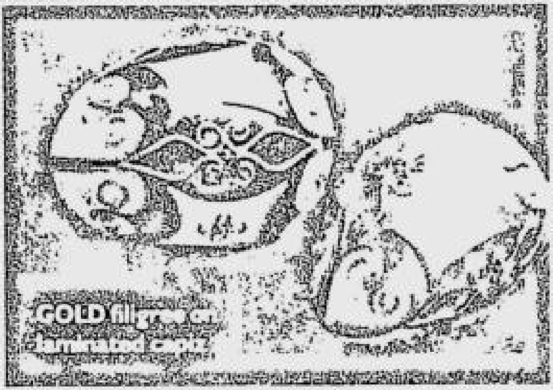
BEADED puca shells



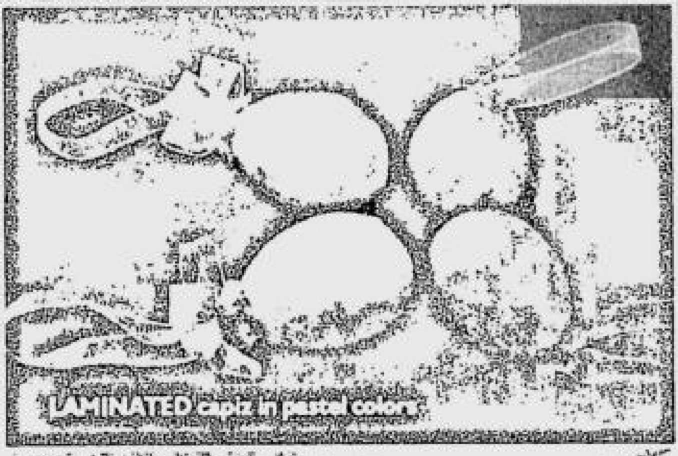
RATTAN shells



PORCELAIN with floral accents



GOLD filigree on laminated capiz



LAMINATED capiz in pastel colors

PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

Pre-Christian symbol becomes universal Easter image

EASTER floral inspirations styled by Rachy Cuna
Photos by Bobot Meru

FOR CHRISTIANS, there is no more important holiday than Easter. It represents rebirth, humankind's redemption from sin through the death of Jesus Christ, the promise of resurrection after death.

Thus, most of Easter's symbols, whether or not religious in origin, are all closely linked to the theme of birth, rebirth, fertility and spring.

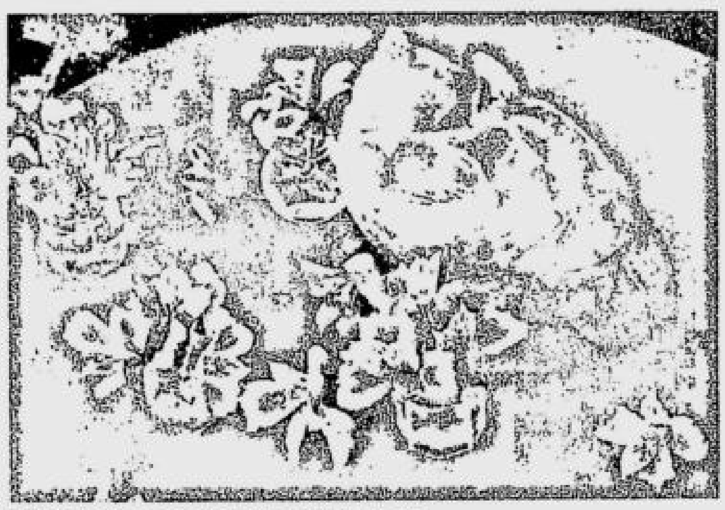
The Easter bunny, according to some accounts, has its origins in pre-Christian societies, which put a premium on fertility. It symbolized the emergence of new life, after nature's "death" during the cold winter season.

The bunny, which reportedly was introduced as an Easter symbol by the Germans, used to grace the Easter table only as some baked goody. But imagination and creativity have also made it, when decked in colorful flowers, an attractive centerpiece to brighten up any Easter table.

These days the Easter centerpiece can even be anything—birds, ducks, whatever pleases the Easter host or hostess.

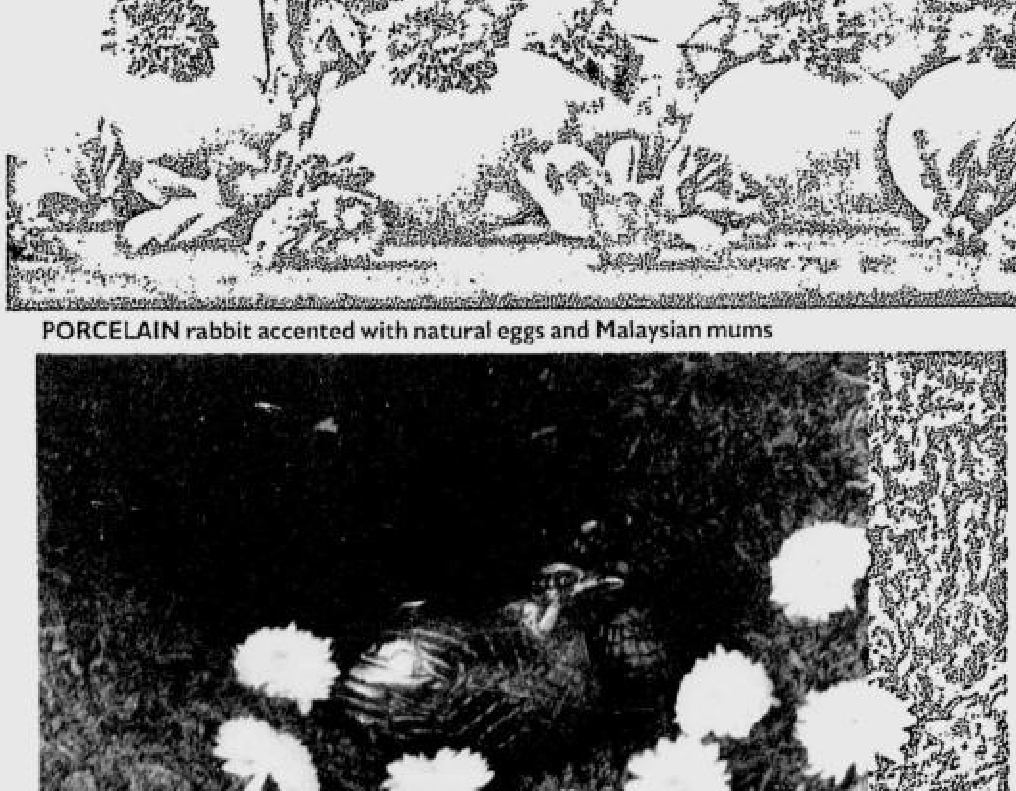
Linda Bolido

PORCELAIN rabbit accented with natural eggs and Malaysian mums



BLOOMS among the rose quartz duck

HATCHING DUCK. Lapiz lazuli



"LOVENEST" with amber birds

RACHY'S floral *palaspas*

DUCKS of love over a jade bowl accented with Baguio mums

Summers with Nana and Papito

Two sisters talk about wacky Easter breaks with grandpa and grandma

By Karla Streegan-Cruz

MY maternal grandparents, Hugo and Goning Streegan, whom we fondly call Nana and Papito, always wanted us to see, eat and feel the best, whether on vacation in the US or Bangkok, or just hanging around their house in Cebu or the beach house north of Cebu, in San Remegio.

In 1986, I was in Palo Alto, California, with Nana and Papito. This was my first-ever trip with them. Following that trip, summers and Christmas vacations in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Solvang followed.

Easter breaks were always spent by the beach somewhere in the Philippines since I only had a week off school.

The best beach I have seen so far in the Philippines is San Remegio in Cebu. This is what Nana calls the "virgin beach"—untouched, unnoticed.

My fondest memory with Papito was walking down Union Square in San Francisco, just shopping and talking for five hours! Papito would constantly remind me, "What other man would shop with you like this?"

PAPITO always says that good food is important in life.

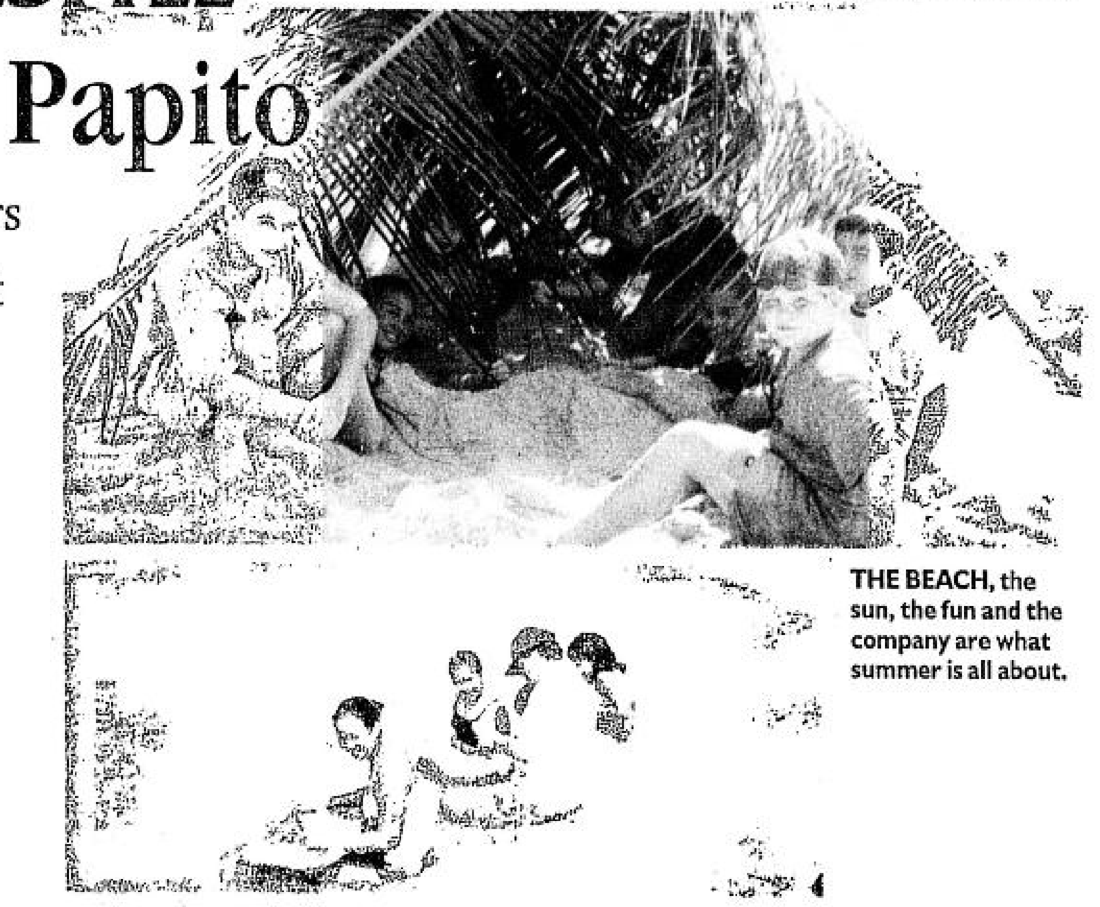
Events like this always ended with good food. Papito always taught me that good food was important in life.

Nana loves to shop, for anything and everything! She's even sometimes more game to shop than my mom!

Nana also likes to expose us to different cultures. She likes taking us to sights like Fisherman's Wharf, Market Street, the markets in Bangkok and the temples.

I always look forward to Nana and Papito sharing their experiences with me. Memories we share count so much more than the places we have gone to.

Vacations become better and more exciting as the years go by, which means, more to look forward to!



THE BEACH, the sun, the fun and the company are what summer is all about.

By Maria Streegan-Cruz

THE BEACH, the sun, the fun and most especially, the company—those will always be summer for me. Nana and Papito are the ones who take care of my cousins and me and allow us to do what our parents refuse. It's just like jumping off the cliff by the sea after siesta and wave-boarding till the dark blue part of the marine emerges!

Talks about Nana and Papito's childhood memories and how they entertained themselves as kids always made us listen and led us to many more wacky ideas to do by the beach the next day.

We all become excited to tell them what we have done during the day. We always have new stories to tell each other and make all of us have a good laugh.

My cousins and I would always hang around during low tide to collect *sigays*, *umangs* (hermit crabs) and sand crabs and play "Japan-Japan," "Capture the Flag," dodge ball and such with our mommies and daddies while Nana and Papito would watch us cheerfully. They were the ones who were most excited when both teams would do good and most nervous when any of us got hurt.

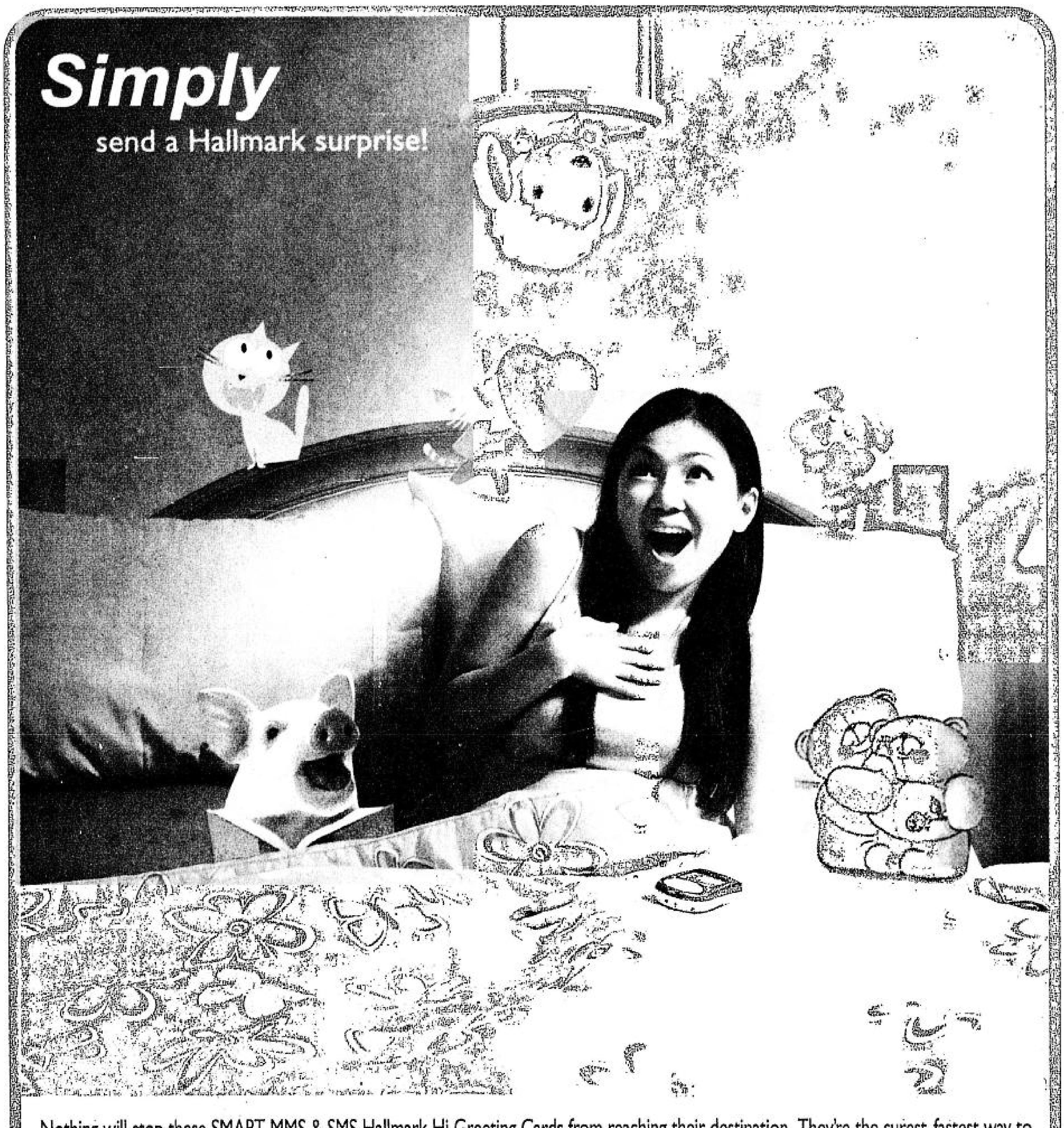
The farm Papito developed from idle land is a place that never runs out of stuff to do—we feed the goats and ducks, pick out the vegetables that are ready for delivery, watch the people pluck the feathers of the chickens, and pick out fresh eggs from the pen.

When it's time to be with Nana, the destination is always the mall. Strolling around and looking outside the stores always leads us to funky finds and preppy ideas. Nana is one sassy grandma!

I turn to the kitchen not only to get food but also to cook. I enjoy the company of cooks. I enjoy everything they teach me. I always learn something new from the cooks and their secrets and techniques in food preparations.

Nana and Papito may be similar to other grandparents. But I would like to think they exceed every one in their thoughtfulness, sincerity and most especially, the smile they always put on our faces when we see them and hang around with them.

NANA and Papito allow the kids to do what their parents wouldn't let them do.



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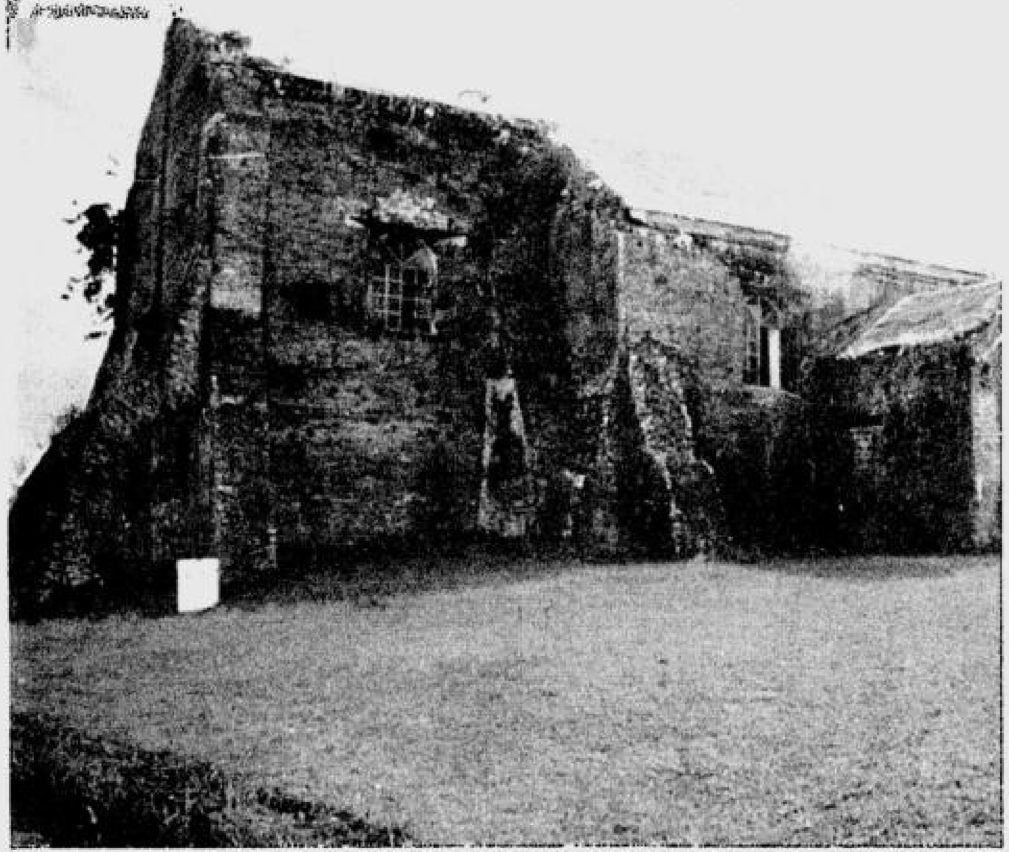
SMART Simply Amazing!

Sunday LIFESTYLE

CUARESMA



Parish of St. James in Iguig, Cagayan Photo by Ernie Sarmiento

Modest church with big attractions

Story on page E2

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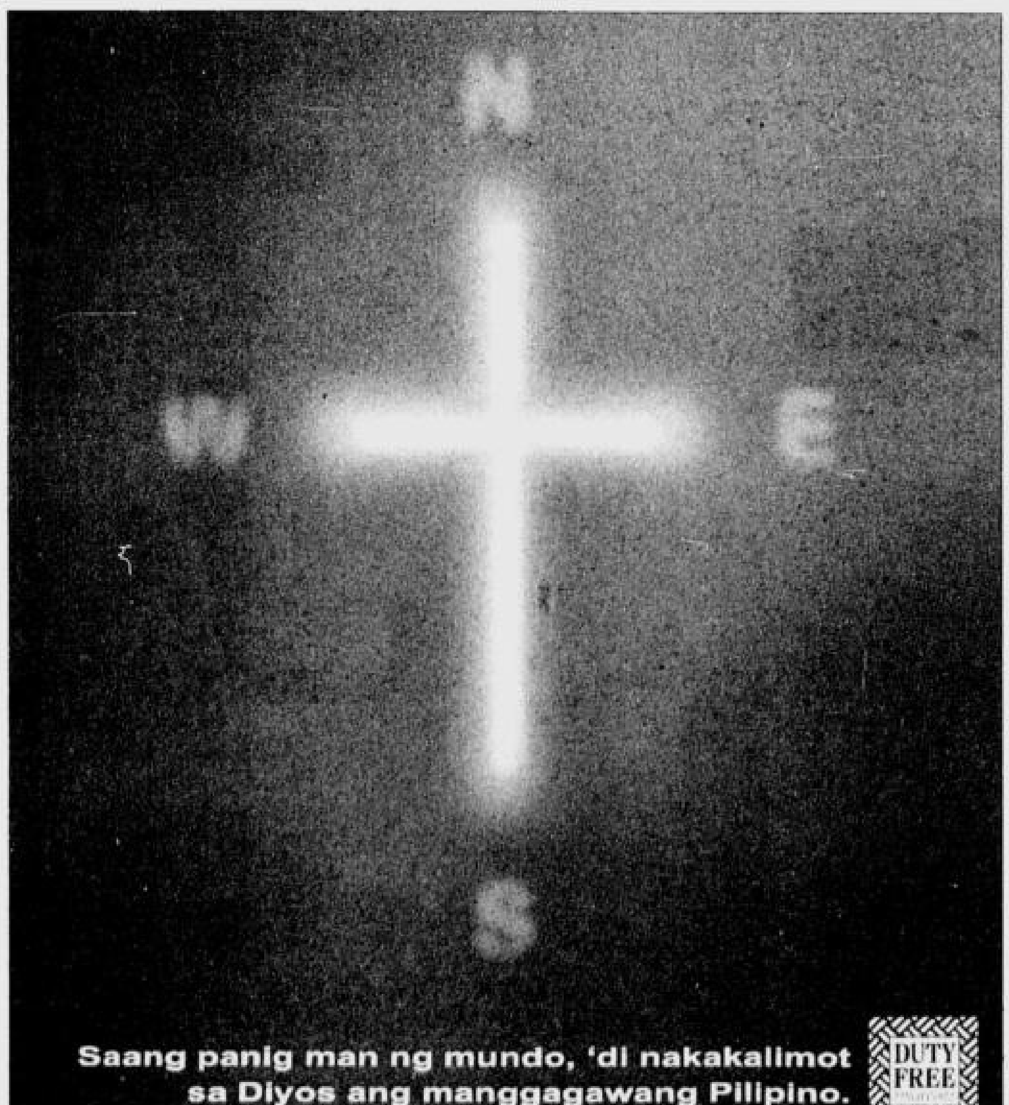
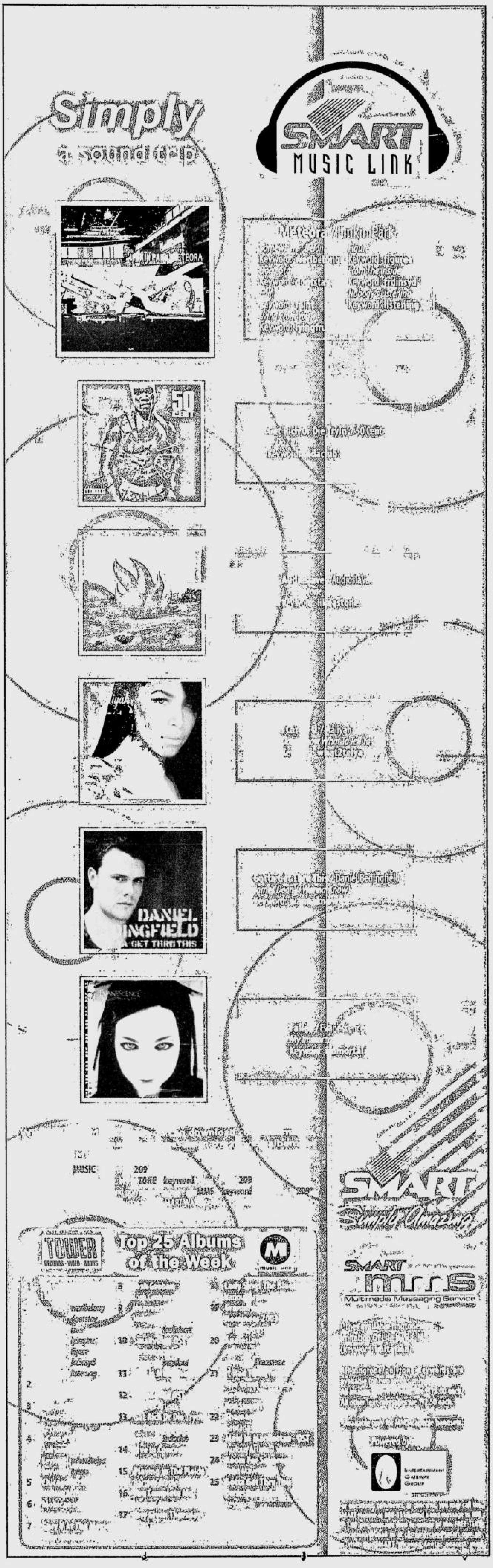


Saang panig man ng mundo, 'di nakakalimot sa Diyos ang manggagawang Pilipino.
DUTY FREE

HOLY WEEK STORE HOURS

April 17, 2003 **Maundy Thursday**	Fiestamall Terminals 1 & 2 Cebu Mactan & Waterfront	Regular Store Hours
April 18, 2003 **Good Friday**	Fiestamall Terminal 1 - Departure/Arrival Terminal 2 - Departure/Arrival Cebu Mactan Cebu Waterfront	CLOSED Regular Store Hours Shortened Store Hours 5:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Regular Store Hours CLOSED
April 19 & 20, 2003 **Black Saturday** **& Easter Sunday**	Fiestamall Terminals 1 & 2 Cebu Mactan & Waterfront	Regular Store Hours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Cagayan lets you get away from
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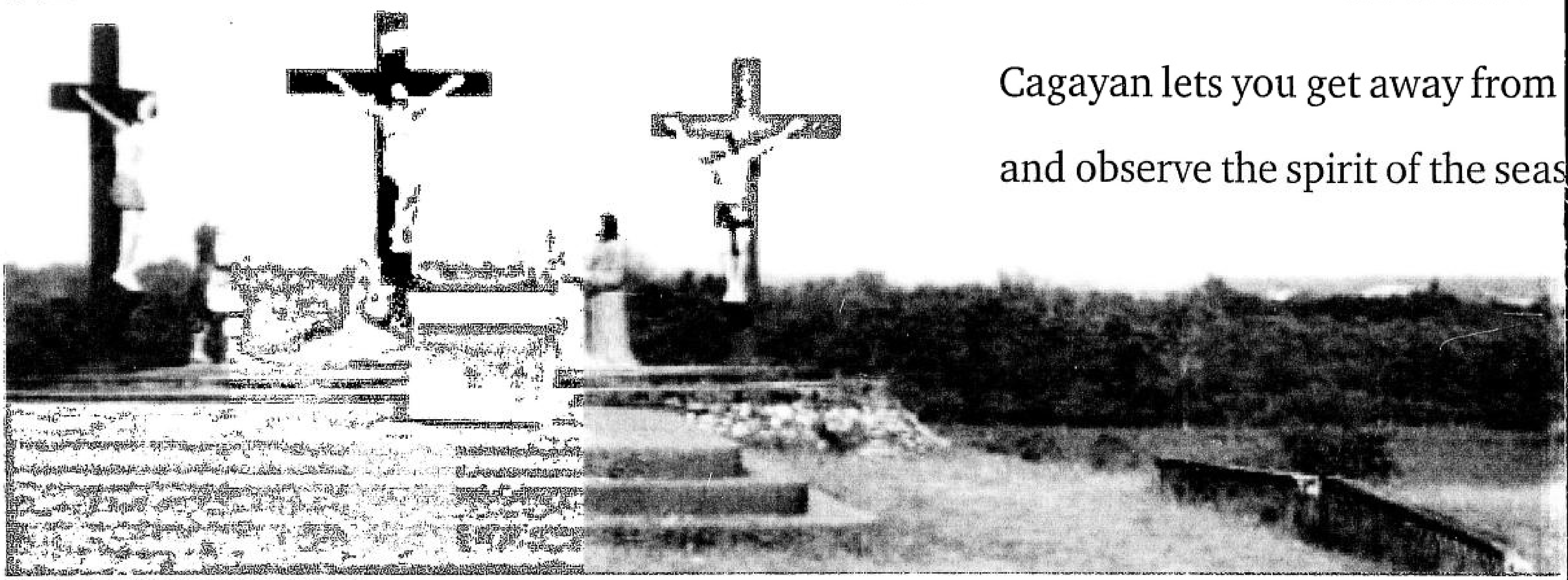


JESUS is nailed to the cross between two robbers.

Modest church with big attra

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

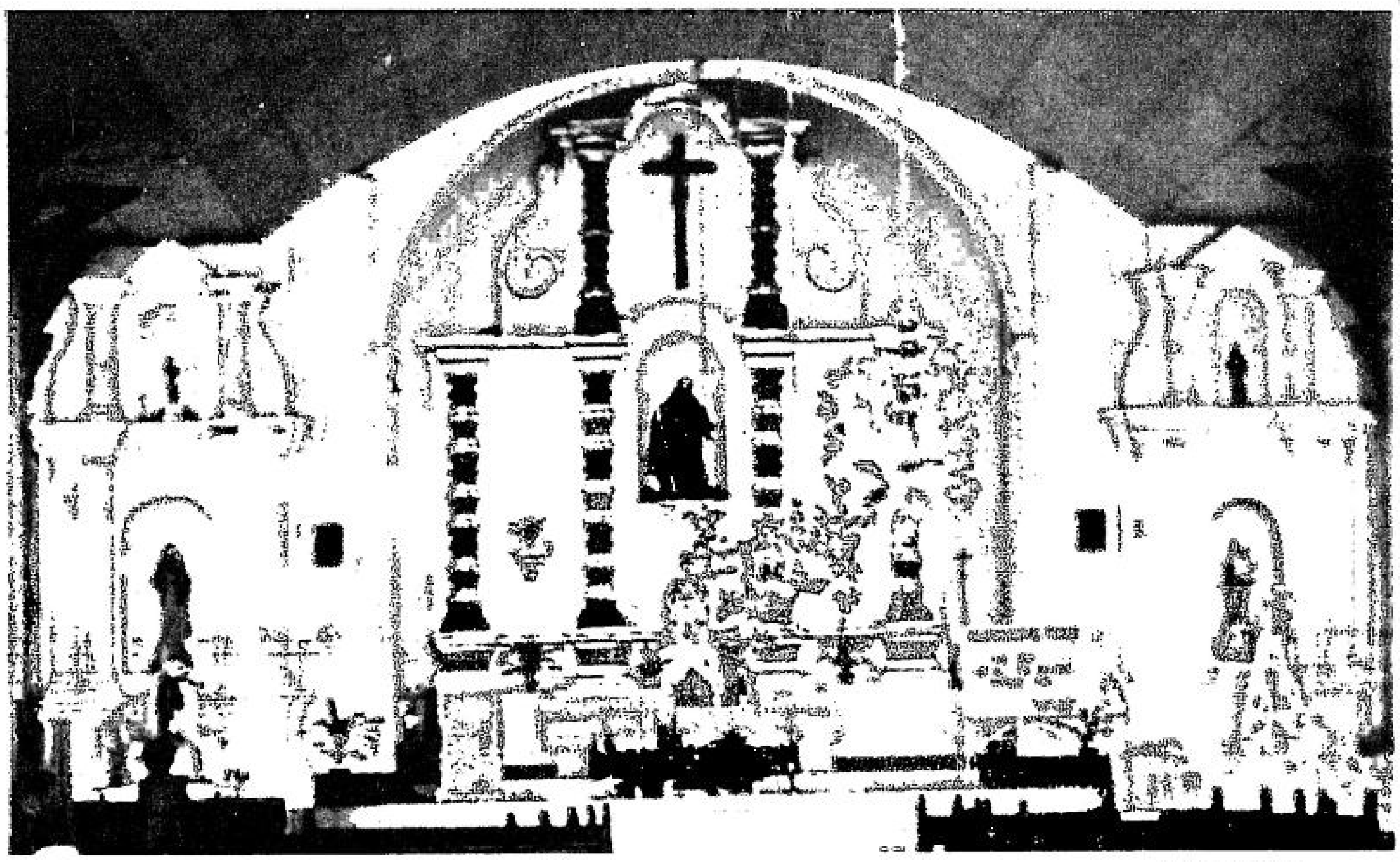
UP in the northernmost part of Luzon, in the province of Cagayan, is the town of Iguig, about an hour away by car from the capital of Tuguegarao, and the Church of St. James.

The church, built in 1765, is small and modest compared to many religious monuments built by the Spaniards in the 300 years they were in the Philippines. It is, in fact, is now raising funds for renovation, asking visitors to contribute whatever modest sum they can afford.

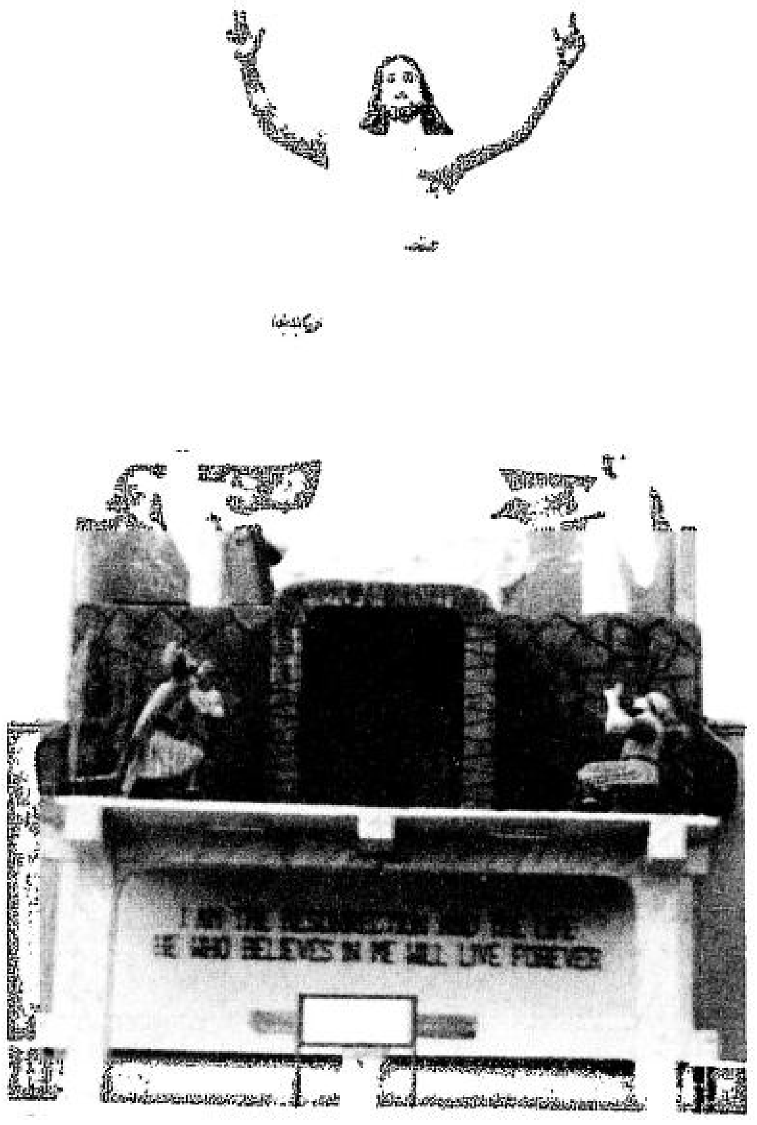
While the church itself may pale in comparison to other religious temples, it draws many Catholics, especially during the Holy Week. What attracts the faithful to the parish is the life-size depiction of Jesus' trip to Mount Calvary, with the cross, where He would be nailed at the end of His journey, on His shoulder.

The vast empty space surrounding the church, with its rolling meadow and hills, has become the Stations of the Cross, the whole tableau ending with a triumphant Christ conquering Death with His Resurrection.

The trek can be exhausting, with wide spaces separating each station and hardly any trees to offer protection from the sun. No doubt many devotees, especially those who feel the need to do penance for their sins but are not quite up to having themselves nailed to the cross as some people do, think the march under a blazing sun from one station to

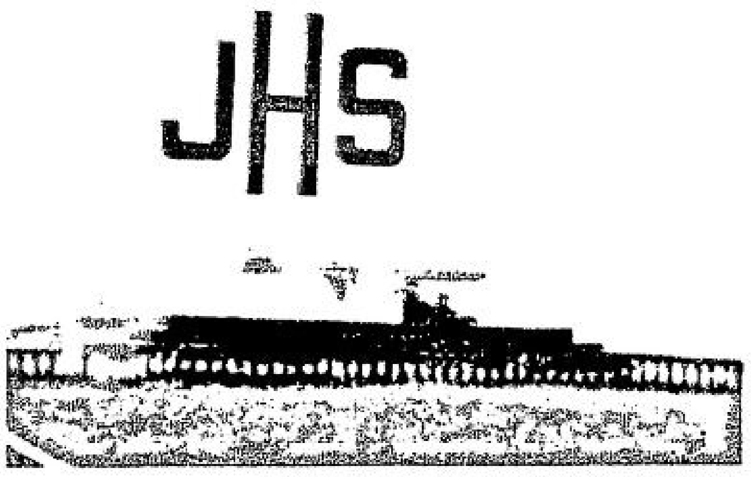


THE ALTAR of Iguig's Church of St. James, which was built in 1765

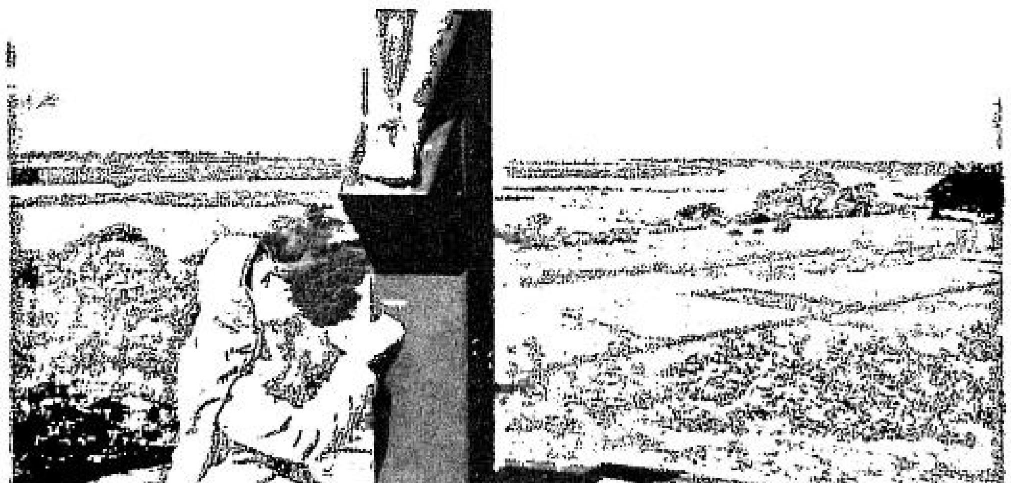


I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE
HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE FOREVER

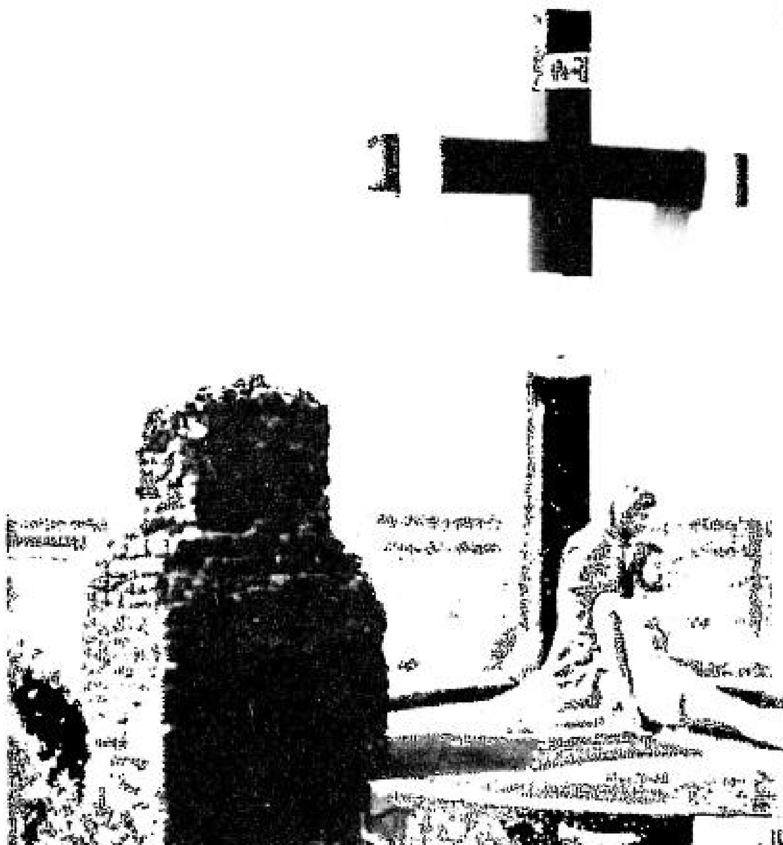
JESUS triumphs over death when He is resurrected after three days.



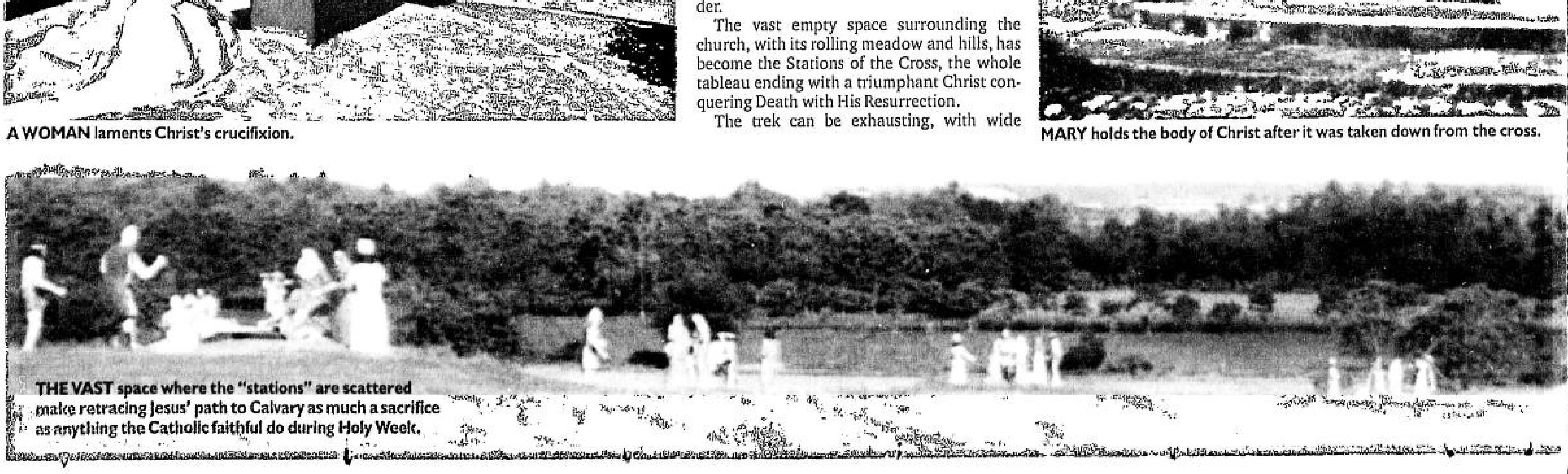
AN OPEN-AIR altar stands beside the nailed Christ and the two robbers.



A WOMAN laments Christ's crucifixion.



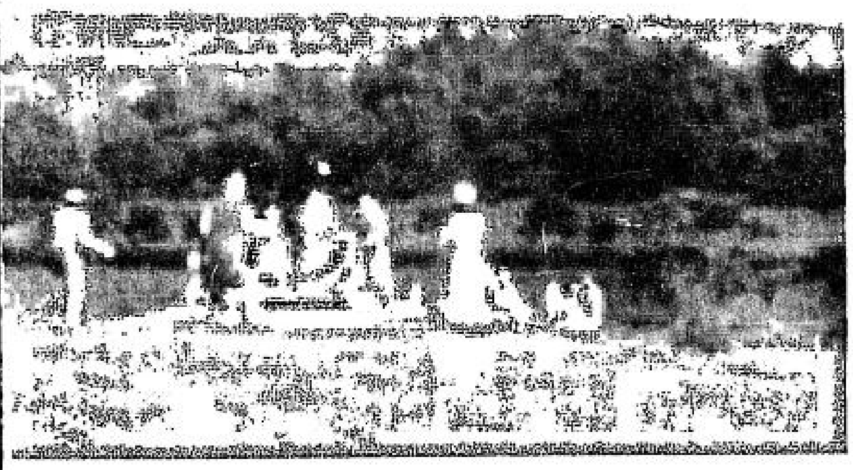
MARY holds the body of Christ after it was taken down from the cross.



THE VAST space where the "stations" are scattered make retracing Jesus' path to Calvary as much a sacrifice as anything the Catholic faithful do during Holy Week.

the urban jungle

on at the same time



JESUS meets Simon of Cyrene, who will help carry the cross.

ctions

the next is well worth their effort.

Making Iguig even more attractive is the fact that Cagayan is also an ideal destination for those eager to get away from the city's noise, pollution, congestion and "sinful" pleasures during the Lenten season.

While the Church of St. James allows the observance of the spirit of the season, other parts of the province will uphold another Lenten tradition, especially among city dwellers—getting away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

Cagayan boasts of some of the prettiest sceneries, including almost-empty beaches, particularly in the town of Santa Ana, about two hours' drive away from the capital. The shores may not have the white sand of Boracay but, except for occasional driftwood and dead seaweeds, they are clean just as the water is.

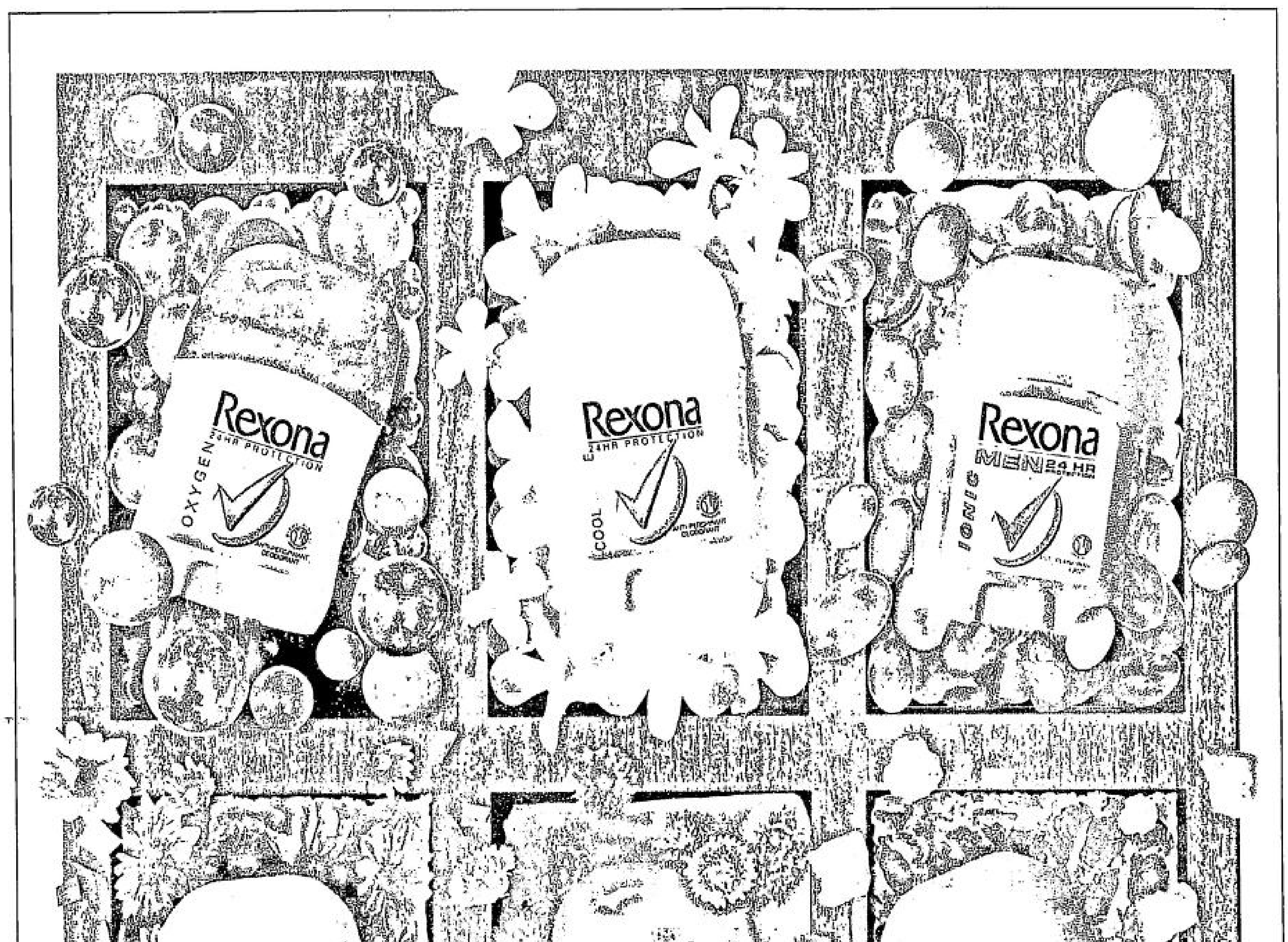
Across from the mainland are several islands that can be reached in half an hour by *banca*, where people can have a picnic, swim and just bask in the sun.

Game-fishing enthusiasts have already discovered the charms of this part of the Philippines but it still remains very much unexplored territory for most Filipinos.

The good news is, the trip does not have to take a whole day or night for Metro Manilans. Unless one is interested in the breathtaking scenery, one of the pleasures of going by road, there are now large planes to take, with daily flights to Tuguegarao.

People wanting to explore this part of the country can make Cagayan's capital their base while exploring the province's many attractions, particularly Iguig's, during the Holy Week.

E-mail the author at linda@fatmails.com



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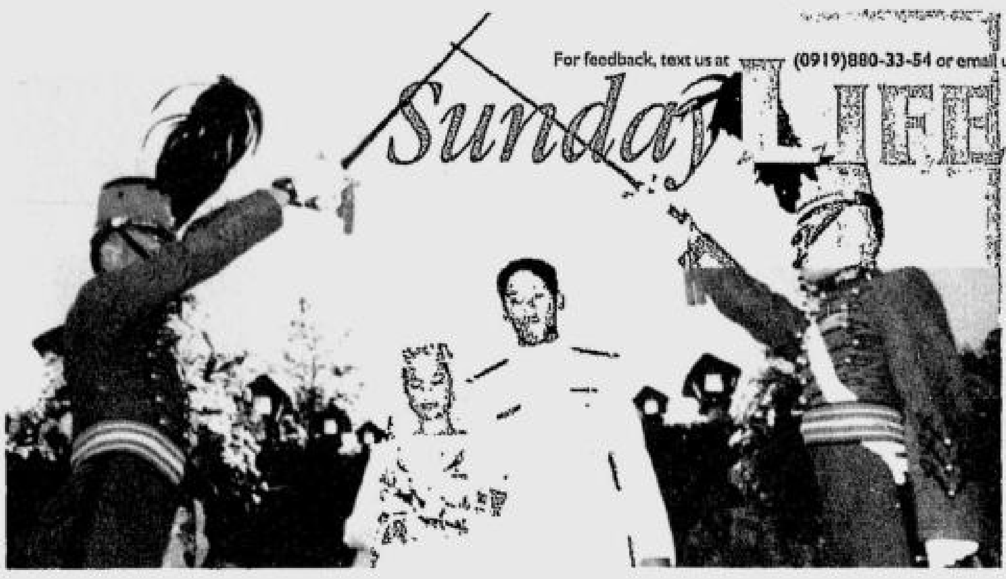
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings & Engagements



Colorful cushions are set on top of Arabic carpets

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Wedding blends Muslim and PMA traditions

Text by Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
Photos by EV Espiritu

WHILE American missiles rained on Baghdad, Navy Ensign Havelino Salih married his childhood sweetheart, Fhadz-Rama Saluh.

"The low-key Islamic wedding of the couple was the closest version of Arabian nights Filipino soldiers here had experienced," said Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Philippine Military Academy superintendent.

Salih and Saluh's union was the first Muslim wedding celebrated at PMA grounds.

"This is a wedding that promotes life and faith, and it should [stir] the community, the Filipino nation and even the world," Adan said. "It tells us that in love, there is unity of faiths. If there is love, there is harmony and if there is harmony, there is peace."

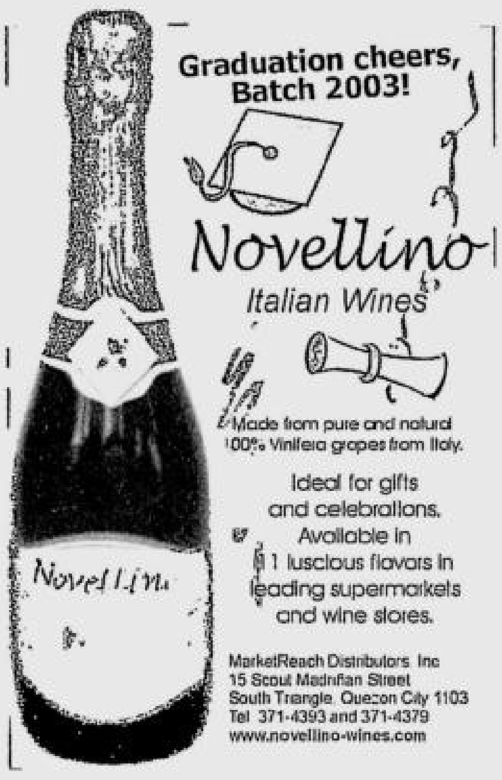
Salih is a member of the PMA Class Mandarangan (Mandirigmang may Karangalan) 2003, and many of his wedding guests came from Sulu.

Salih, 23, said he grew up in Siasi, Sulu, but saw little of the anguish and violence that had scarred Jolo.

If there was enmity in his town it had been sparked by clan feuds, Salih said.

But it was his

WEDDING/ F2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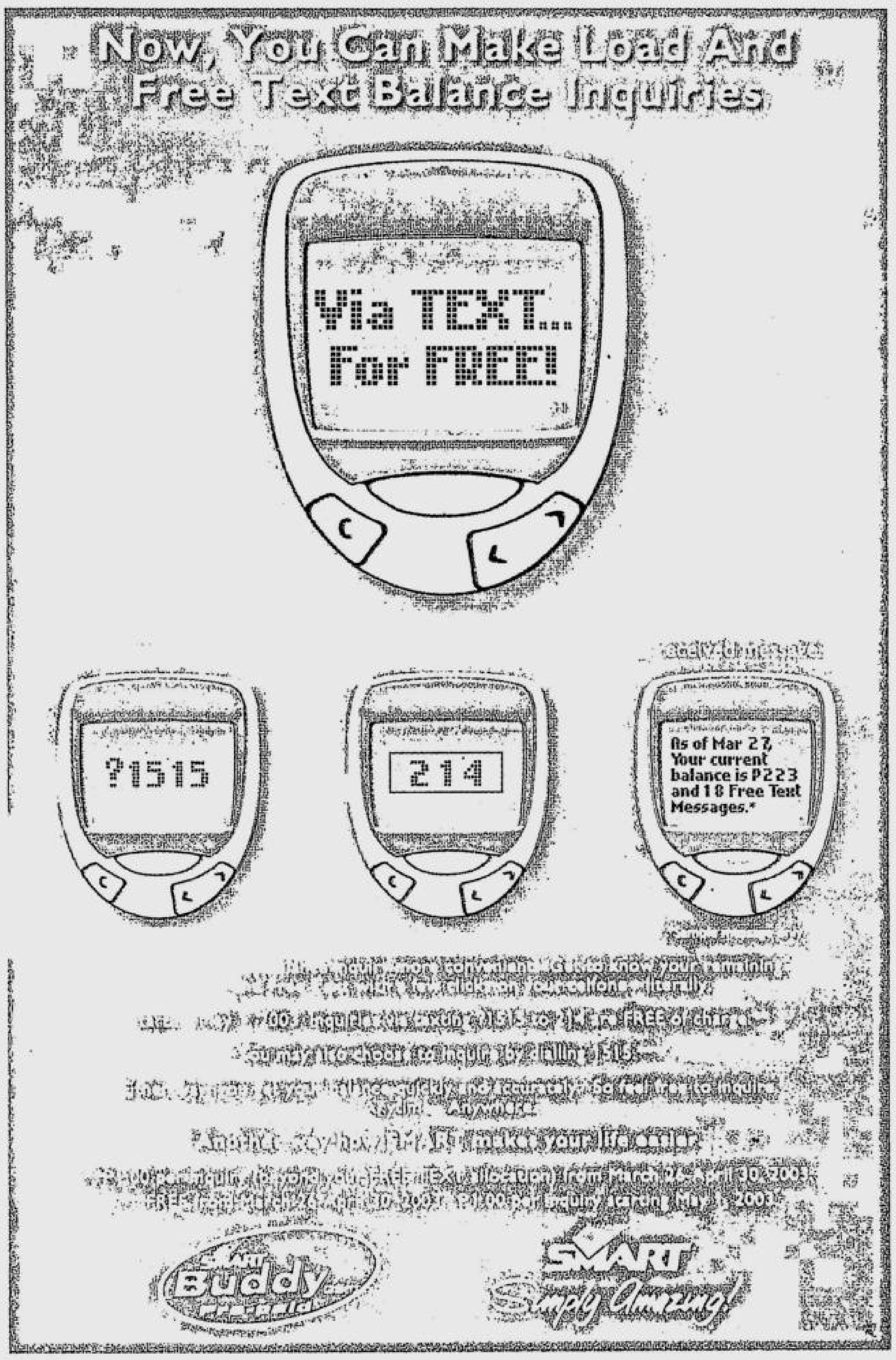
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Gloria Macapuno Arroyo or "Ate Glow" recently led the blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremonies which officially opens the newest branch of Spoofs Limited at the 2nd floor of SM North Edsa Annex. Joining Ate Glow are managing partners of Spoofs Limited, Andrew Marcelo, Charlie Dobles and other special guests.

Joseph & Jinggoy

Photo shows Ate Glow checking out the latest designs found at the SM North Edsa Annex outlet. After going through all the merchandise and right before leaving, she further emphasized the need to "Wear more laughter" especially during these times of war and crisis.

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HIGH-SCHOOL sweethearts tie the knot.

Wedding blends Muslim and PMA traditions

From page F1

friendship with Fhadz, 22, which strengthened his resolve to graduate from PMA.

"I met Fhadz at Notre Dame High School of Siasi. I became her boyfriend when I became a senior student," he said.

A son of a police officer, Salih is the only Muslim cadet to graduate this year.

Muslim members of the PMA alumni, many of whom have become police officials, marched down the PMA amphitheater in their best "dress whites" at 5 p.m.

Former PMA commandant Col. Ben Dolorfino, a Muslim convert who facilitated the construction of PMA's first mosque, also attended the event.

The ceremony was a blending of Muslim and PMA traditions. Colorful cushions were set on top of Arabic carpets at the center of the park. A trunk decorated with food was set. Baskets filled with P100 to P1,000 bills strapped to sticks were beside the cushions.

A P150,000 dowry was offered to one of Fhadz's uncles in the presence of Adan, Dolorfino and 22 other witnesses. Once it was accepted, Salih was allowed to fetch Fhadz from behind the curtain to receive counsel from their Imam (officiating priest), Abdullah.

"Salih was my assistant. He is well known for making the calls to prayer, and he will be missed. That is why we gave him this much special attention," Abdullah said.

As soon as Abdullah confirmed their wedding, the couple walked through PMA cross swords.

As he escorted Fhadz through each pair of crossed swords, Salih was asked by the PMA cadets to undergo "rites of passage" that included a public acknowledgement of their love and a romantic dance.

ANTON-NAVARETTE NUPTIALS

A dream race ends at the altar

Text by Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
Photos by Toots Soberano

AFTER a long, winding track, one of the country's best race car drivers reached his dream destination and married his girlfriend of 10 years last Dec. 9 at Baguio Cathedral.

Award-winning sportsman Juan Carlos Anton, son of Baguio-based business couple Miguel and Edna Anton, started the race to capture the heart of dancer and local TV talent Karen Ann Navarette in 1992.

Their romance bloomed at the University of the Philippines Baguio where Karen and Carlos were both journalism students. To strengthen their relationship, they took taekwondo lessons as part of their workout.

Reception was held at Baguio Country Club where 400 of the couple's relatives and friends, including Carlos' fellow racers, attended.

Movie actor Ramon Christopher Gutierrez, a race car driver himself, was Carlos' groomsman.

Carlos said he first saw Karen at the Spirits Discotheque here when she won the "Face of the Night" contest in 1992.

On the dance floor, Karen noticed a "good-looking guy" who had been staring at her.

Too shy to make the first move, a mutual friend introduced Carlos to Karen. And they have been inseparable since.

Karen, a part-time model and host of a local television variety show, is Carlos' photographer in car racing competitions. Carlos, for his part, drives Karen to her tapings and photo shoots.

One weekend in June last year, Carlos took Karen and some friends to Laoag City. Karen thought it was a simple out-of-town trip as it had become part of their routine to visit various churches.

The devout Catholic couple usually took the rear pew of the churches they visited but at that moment, Carlos wanted to pray in the front pew.

"So we marched hand-in-hand in the middle aisle. It hit me right there, this was the time he was going to propose," said Karen.

Carlos asked Karen to kneel down with him while praying as he brought out the ring and said: "Karen, as God is my witness, will you marry me?"

Karen said she was speechless and hardly noticed that she was in tears.

A perfectionist, Karen, youngest daughter of Salvador and Carlmelita Navarette, designed her wedding gown and meticulously did the beadwork for three months.

Her sister Donna, who also acted as her maid of honor, helped Karen with the details of the wedding preparations.

Carlos' best man was his brother Jose Miguel.

Among the principal sponsors were Mayor Bernardo Vergara and Rebecca Domogan, lawyer Pablito Sanidad and Cecilia Reynoso, Michael Potenciano and Bernadette Gacad, Pete and Elizabeth Loy, Anonio Aoyong and Amy Tan, Edgardo Nevada and Judith Ann Pavia, and Dr. Ernesto Bayuga and Esperanza Olson.

Carlos manages his own restaurants in Baguio. Karen holds dance classes in her own studio named Aloha Hula Halau Dance Academy.

CARLOS Anton and Karen Navarette at the Baguio Cathedral

CARLOS and Karen are a picture of a happy couple after they exchanged "I dos."

THE NEWLYWEDS with family and friends, including car racers Ramon Christopher and Mike Potenciano

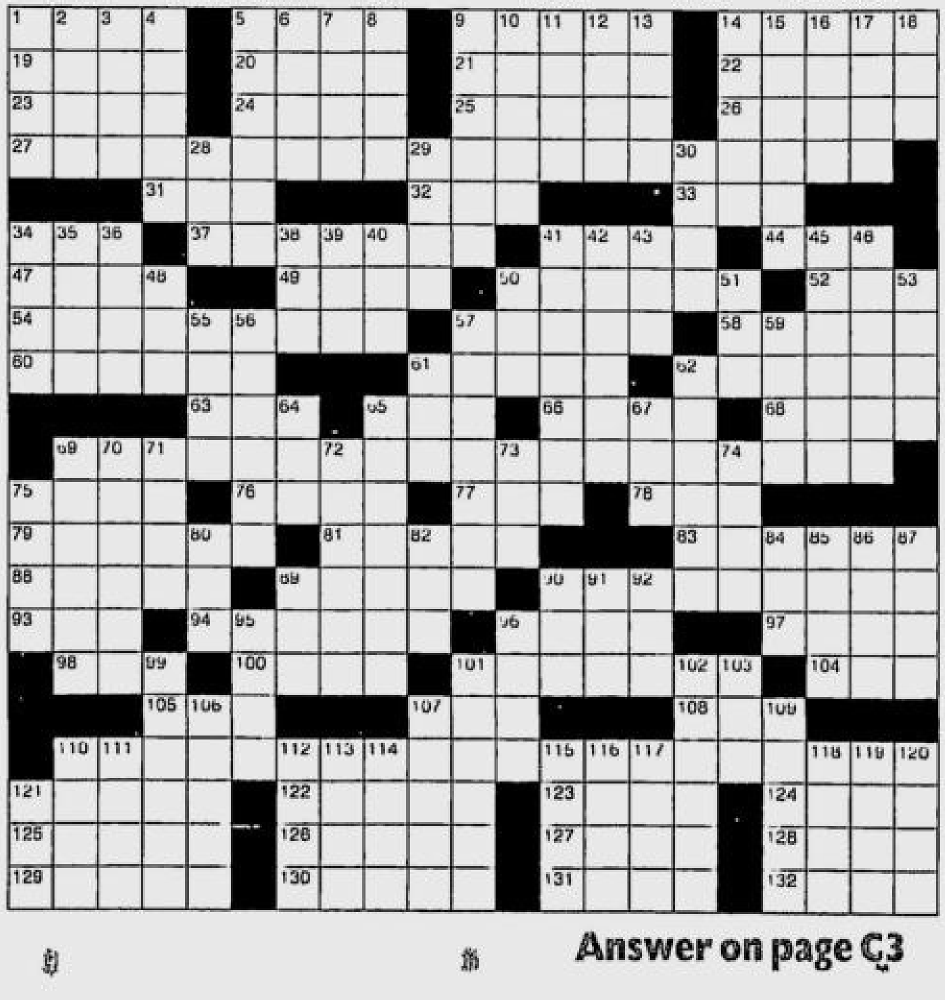
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

APRIL DILEMMA

ACROSS
1 Lump
5 Showed sorrow
9 Anthony of "Boston Public"
14 Jambalaya ingredient
19 Hammett hound
20 Where to find an onager
21 Songwriter Greenwich
22 Spine-tingling
23 Fertile soil
24 Tumble
25 Java joints
26 — -garde
27 Start of a remark
31 Herriot title start
32 Vigoda or Saperstein
33 Slippery character?
34 Brit. fliers
37 Singer Manchester
41 Celt
44 Faucet
47 94 Across highlight
49 Pants part
50 "The Jungle Book" boy
52 Cask
54 Part 2 of remark
57 "Love — the Ruins" ('75 film)
58 Neon —
60 Cap or dolman
61 Bookstore section
62 Bog
63 Precambrian —
65 In honor of
66 Snick and —
68 — above (somewhat superior)
69 Part 3 of remark
75 Baseball family name
76 Antitoxins
77 Mouth piece?
78 Long or Peeples
79 Solidarity leader
81 Forger's need
83 Cultural
88 Wear away
89 Carthaginian
90 Part 4 of remark
93 Comic Rickles
94 Bizet opera
96 Nasty
97 "How sweet —!"
98 Cpl.'s superior
100 Type of fuel
101 Porgy and bass
104 Fast flier
105 He gives a hoot
107 Cooke or Donaldson
108 Male swan
110 End of remark
121 Biblical city
122 "That's —" ('54 tune)
123 Actress Thompson
124 Gymnast Korbut
125 "West Side Story" role
126 Porsche propeller
127 Tel —
128 Crucifix
129 Texas' state tree
130 Marvell marvels
131 Coty or Clair
132 Dweeb

DOWN
1 French Sudan, today
2 From
3 Command to Fido
4 Mead's milieu
5 Breakfast treat
6 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
7 Disagreeable sort
8 Hard to believe
9 Priam's wife
10 Cheer
11 — Romeo
12 Mortgage, for one
13 Actor Arnaz
14 Serenity
15 Disgust
16 Composer Khachaturian
17 Deep red
18 Volleyball divider
28 City on the Danube
29 Kind of kiln
30 Fenwick or Carter
34 Snitches
35 Inland sea
36 Prix —
38 Baton Rouge coll.
39 Cloth finish
40 — Mateo, CA
41 Errs
42 It darkens your doorway
43 Bird-to-be
45 Join
46 Follow
48 "— you for real?"
50 2001, to Tiberius
51 Skater Midori
53 Publisher Conde
55 At any time
56 Brewer or Wright
57 Orion, for instance
59 Part of Q.E.D.
61 Tofu base
62 Occupation
64 Sail through
65 Cozy cloth
67 Tons of time
69 Mild cigars
70 Fermented tea
71 Deplored
72 Shock
73 Word with baby or snake
74 Inauguration Day event
75 Filled with wonder
80 Instant, for short
82 Coq au —
84 — pollo
85 '87 Streisand film
86 Egyptian deity
87 "— la vie"
89 Supportive of
90 Princess bruiser
91 Klutz
92 Plastic — Band
95 Bill of Rights grp.
96 Interoffice communique
99 Honda competitor
101 Wimsey's creator
102 From C to shining C?
103 TV's "Scooby- —"
106 '81 John Lennon hit
107 Senator Thurmond
109 Borg of tennis
110 Actress Skye
111 Bank's backup org.
112 Clammy
113 "Typee" sequel
114 A bit of Beethoven
115 Weekend warriors: abbr.
116 Donated
117 Frigga's fellow
118 South African plant
119 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
120 Diane of "Chinatown"
121 Weaken



Answer on page C3

GMA is principal sponsor in royal wedding

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the principal sponsor in a colorful royal Maranao wedding to be held on April 14, 6 p.m. at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City.

To be wed are Datu Saripada "Tong" Lucman Pacasum and Bai Norhani Ali Gutoc, scions of Lanao del Sur royal families.

The 24-year-old groom, a graduate of De la Salle University, is the eldest son of Datu Saripada Ali Pacasum, former congressman, and Bai Normalah Alonto Lucman, president of Pacasum College and former Lanao del Sur vice governor.

Norhani, a 23-year-old graduate of the University of the Philippines Diliman, is the daughter of Ambassador Candidato B. Gutoc and Tomanina Ali Gutoc, both of Lanao del Sur.

Other sponsors include Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas F. Ople, Sen. Loren Legarda, Ambassador Ibrahim Muhanna Al-Muhanan, Gov. Mamintal Adiong Sr., Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Gov. Wahab Akbar, Agrarian Reform Sec. Roberto Pagdanganan, Gov. Datu Pax Mangodatu, former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, Gov. Saidamen Pangarungan, Housing Sec. Michael Defensor, Ambassador Macabangkit Lanto, ARMM Gov. Farouk Hussein of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Ambassador Haroun Alonto, former ARMM Gov. Lininding Pangandaman, Rep. Pangalian Balindong, Com. Antonio Bernardo, Nelson Buenaflor, Assistant Sec. Roberto Lastimoso, collector Mina Dianalan, Princess Diamond A.P. Pangarungan, Mayor Salam N. Pangadapun, Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, Ambassador Abulkhayr Alonto, Rep. Benasing Macarambon Jr., director Mocamad S. Rakiin Sr., Rep. Guimid Matalam, Alidadi Mindalanao, Undersecretary Nieves Libre Osorio, Dimas Pundato, Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, Mayor Omel Bazman, Undersecretary Hafida Lucman, Hadja Potri Zorayda Abbas Tamano, Undersecretary Nurshida G. Guro, administrator Rakim Batugan, Bakar Baulo, Princess Monjera Disini, Mayor Elias Ali, director Dibagulon Gandamra, Mayor Moli Aquil Mamainte, Mayor Benjamin Bagul, Princess Potri Pacasum, Mayor Alibasa Laut Lucman Jr., Princess Racma Balt, director Baliamen Mamainte Sr., Bai Annisa Alonto Biruar, Judge Yusoph Pangadapun Sr., Hadja Sittie Juhara Umpa Omar, Antolin Oreta Jr., lawyer Fely Aquino-Arroyo, Hirene Lopez, Suhaila Salic, Jamil Lucman, and Zenaida Bubong.

The bridal gown was designed by Ben Farrales, while Allan Uy did the men's suits. The band South Border, top female vocalists, the 4 String Band of the Peninsula and *kulintang* players from Lanao del Sur will perform during the reception.

BAI Norhani Ali Gutoc

DATU Saripada Lucman Pacasum

Readers react to student's dilemma over what course to take

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

OUR column last Wednesday on Dennis' dilemma if he'll take up nursing or medicine elicited comments from readers. I am running the first ones that came in. I believe Dennis, as well as others who are in a similar situation as he is, will find them inspirational and useful.

DEAR Tita Dulce,

There is and will continue to be a high demand for both nurses and physicians. As for the latter, I read here in Germany that the physician-to-population ratio is very low in Europe, and the ratio is lowest in the UK. The demand continues to rise, so EU countries will have no choice but to take in foreign physicians. As for me and my Polish wife, we chose our respective profession not because of the demand for it but because we like it, and we are happy with it.

JUSTIN

If you like your work, it doesn't feel like you're working at all. It feels, rather, like you're getting paid for doing what you will do even without getting paid.

I agree with your advice regarding the practicality of going into nursing. I'd like to add, though, a few points about the benefits of a medical career.

I finished my medical schooling in Manila, and I have been fortunate to pass the rigors of US medical board exams, residency and fellowship. In a few months, I'll finish my post graduate clinical training in internal medicine, and I have many options from here—to enter the pharmaceutical industry as a medical adviser or as a research coordinator, or do academic medicine where I can still see patients and also teach budding doctors the finer points of medicine, or go into hospital administration. The financial rewards are certain.

If I were to describe myself now, I'd say I'm a single Filipino female, 30 years-young, and I am about to set foot on another vibrant phase of my life.

KARINA

It's interesting to note that your description omits the fact that you are a doctor. I guess that means that if you're happy with your chosen career, you'll be pursuing life and not a profession.

Lest your readers be misled, units earned in nursing cannot be credited when one takes up medicine. Although both courses offer some subjects in common, they are not equivalent in terms of the number of hours of instruction.

MITCHELL D., MD

Read on, my dear. Melissa says that's not always the case.

Why doesn't Dennis just shift from psychology to nursing and not waste another year? Nursing is a pre-med course. I'm sure his basic science subjects will be credited when he goes to a nursing school (although that might not be allowed in some universities like UP or UST, where he has to start as a freshman).

You discussed the pros and cons well, but I think you missed delving into Dennis' primary motivation or his ultimate goal. Is it just financial reward? Does he see himself loving and living the job that he opts for?

I finished medicine in the Philippines, did my residency in a government hospital in Manila, and I'm now one of the few doctors practicing here in the UK. This country is in dire need of doctors. For those who are eager to work here, check the website of General Medical Council, UK's sole registering body for overseas doctors: www.gmc-uk.org.

MELISSA

So, those are your principal markets, Dennis: US for nurses, and UK for doctors. I hope that doesn't make it harder for you to decide, because now your choice of career might also depend on where you want to be: America or Britain.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City

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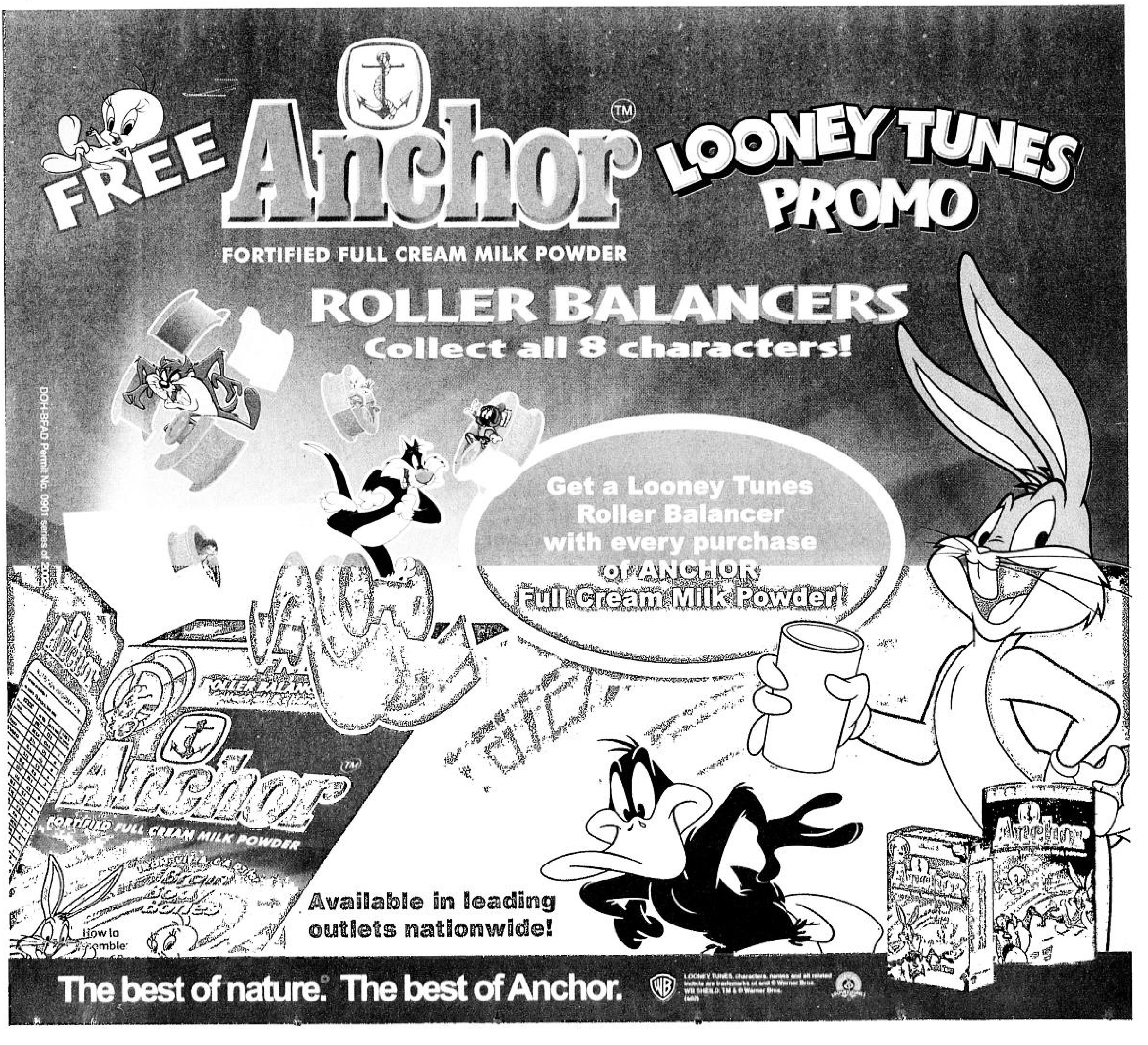
Per DOH-BFAD #0056, sonps 2003

Kaya sali na! GMA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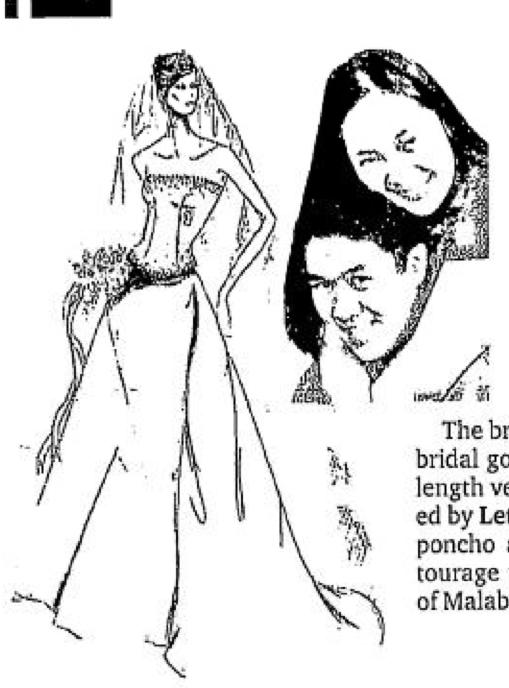
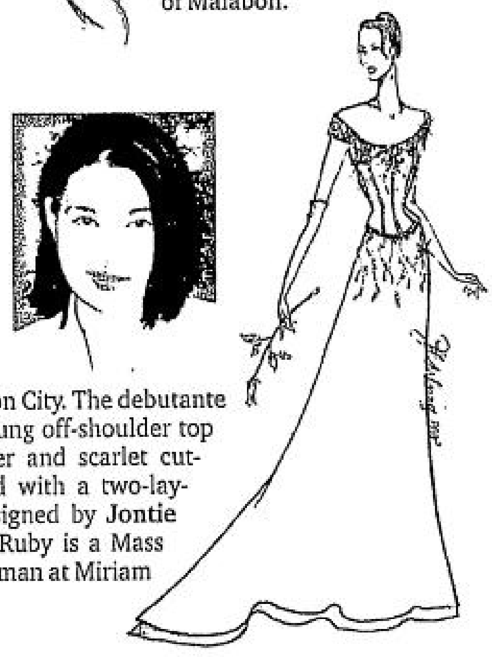


CARLOS-CO

Michael Carlos, son of Mr. and Ms **Elpidio Carlos**, tied the knot with **Ann Michelle Co**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Esteban Co Jr.**, on Feb. 22 at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila. Reception followed at the Hotel Intramuros de Manila.

The bride wore an ecru satin bridal gown and matching full length veil designed and created by **Letlet Veloso**. An orange poncho and dress for the entourage was created by **Doby** of Malabon.



ZAMORA DEBUT

Ruby Florelene Zamora, daughter of **Roberto** and **Jazmi Zamora**, celebrated her debut on March 8 at the Grand Ballroom of Celebrity Club in Diliman, Quezon City. The debutante wore a ruby-red shantung off-shoulder top embellished with silver and scarlet cut-glass beadwork paired with a two-layered chiffon skirt, designed by **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**. Ruby is a Mass Communications freshman at Miriam College.

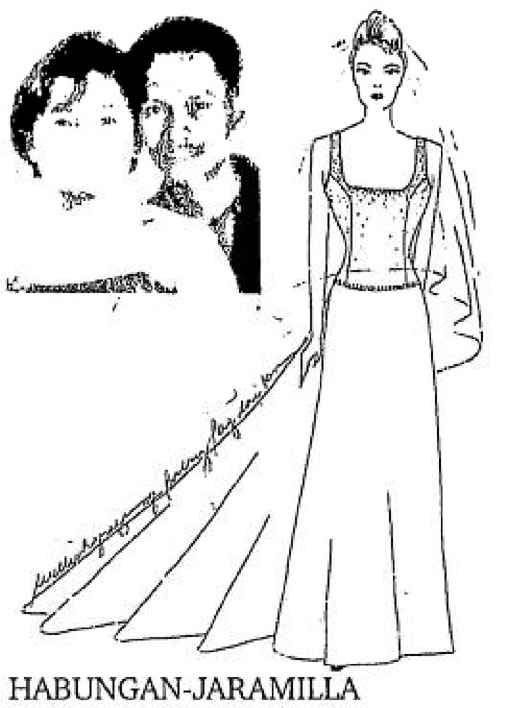
BUÑALES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Alfonso Romey Buñales and **Felina Nicolas Buñales** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a renewal of marriage vows on April 26 at San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at Rigodon Hall, Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.

Felina will wear a hand-woven Thai-silk ecru bridal gown in gold underlay, rich and exquisite embroidery with beading of semi-precious gems. The gown was designed by **Ernest Santos**, who also coordinates the event.

MUÑOZ-ANDAN

Dennis de los Santos Muñoz tied the knot with **Aileen Perez Andan** on March 8 at the Archdiocesan Shrine, the Way, the Truth and the Life. The bride wore a strapless princess-cut gown in cream duchesse satin traced with caviar beads, faux pearls and iridescent sequins with a detachable train created by Galatea designers **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**. Reception was held at The Manila Hotel.



HABUNGAN-JARAMILLA

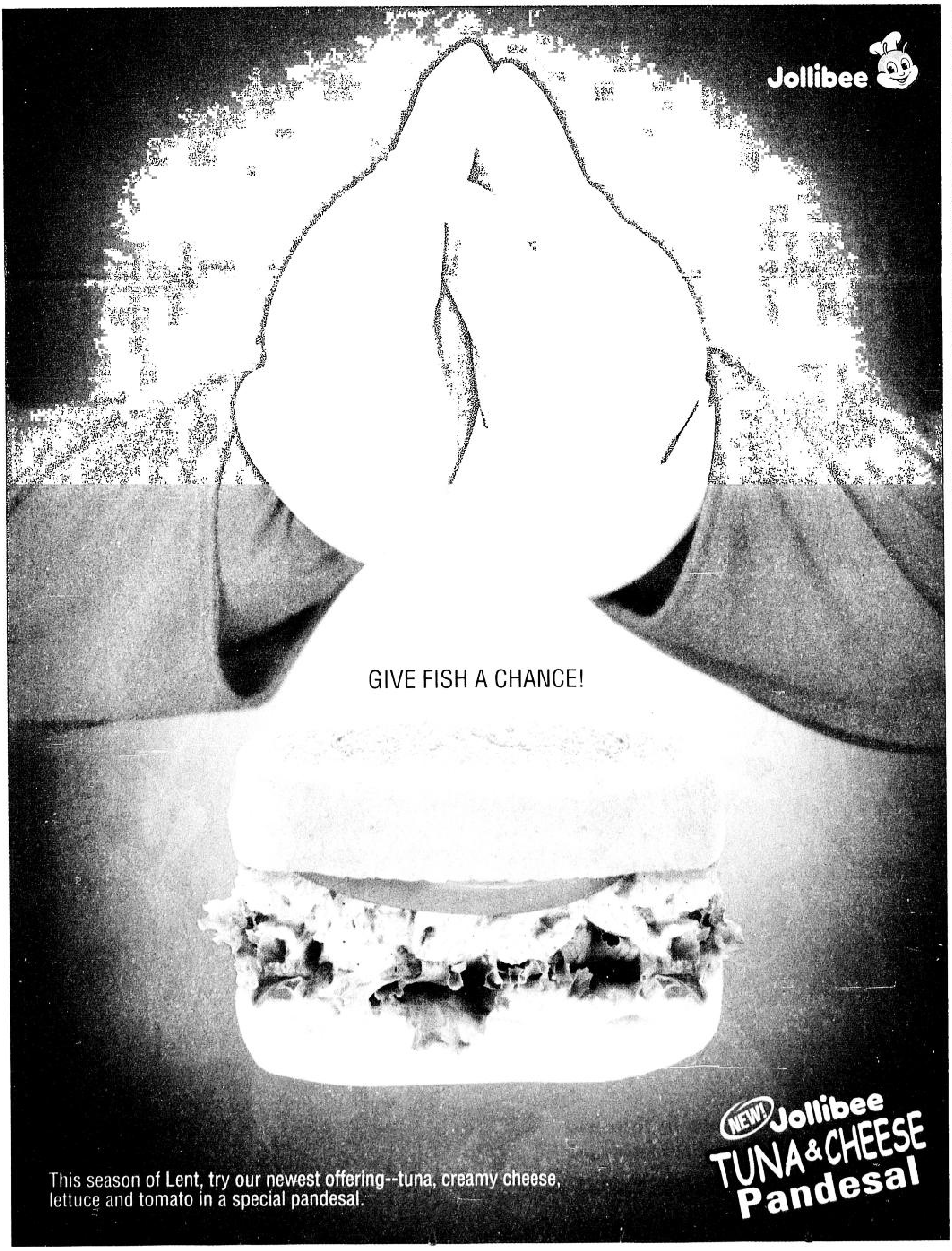
Alberto H. Habungan, son of **Bernardo** and **Nieves Habungan**, will tie the knot with **Ma. Victoria A. Jaramilla**, daughter of **Luis** and **Emilia Jaramilla**, on April 24, 9 a.m. at Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur. Reception follows at the Jaramilla residence, Lantag, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur.

The bride will wear a gown by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan. The gown is made of ecru duchesse satin with Swarovski crystals and rhinestones of different sizes. She will also wear a headpiece by Mikhael Accessories.

DALWAMPO-GONZALES

Henry Dalwampo, son of **Filino Dalwampo** and **Violeta Rematado**, and **Nazelle Gonzales**, daughter of **Nazario** and **Conchita Gonzales**, will exchange vows on July 12 at the Pasig Catholic Church, Pasig City.

The bride will wear a creation by **Nita Javier**.



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Bridal fair at Manila mall

PHILTRADE Exhibit hosts "Wedding Essentials" on May 2-15 at Padre Faura Atrium, Robinsons Place Manila. Future brides and grooms can directly consult with caterers, coordinators, designers and stylists during the two-week event. The fair features the special centerpiece creation of event stylist Henry Pascual and the bridal gown ensemble of designer Edward Teng. Call 820-7879/1570.

Bridal and debut fair

TRADERS Hotel Manila on Roxas Boulevard recently signed a contract with Behind The Scene to produce a bridal and debut fair on June 14 and 15 at the Embassy Ballroom.

Dubbed as "It's Happening at the T," the event will showcase the most comprehensive display of wedding suppliers in the country. Highlight of the affair is a fashion show on June 14. During the fair, a series of talks on the latest trends in wedding and debut planning will also be conducted.

Kiddie activities

SHANGRI-LA Plaza holds activities for children this month.

Until April 13, Magnavision Home Video will entertain them with a Kiddie Video Festival at the Grand Atrium.

On April 13, they will be treated to games, song numbers and storytelling.

On April 19, they can watch Trumpets' musical, "Godspell," at Grand Atrium.

Up to April 20, kids can also have fun with arts and crafts at Color Me Mine at Level 5. The traditional Easter Egg Hunt for parent-child teams will be held on April 20 at Level 2.

An Ice Cream Festival will be held at Grand Atrium on April 25-27. Call 633-7851.

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday LIFESTYLE

NATIVIDAD Palanca de Zamlumbides and pianist Felipe Ramirez

Felipe Ramirez performed works of Spain's three outstanding composers

Int'l pianist's 3rd recital in Cebu

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

FELIPE Ramirez is a highly acclaimed pianist in the international scene. He is of Spanish/Filipino parentage, is currently based in Texas, and regularly performs in concerts and recitals.

In Manila, he was soloist with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and he also performed at a benefit concert under the aegis of Instituto Cervantes.

His Cebu performance was presented by Instituto Cervantes and the Arts Council. This was Felipe's third recital in Cebu, and it was also the third event brought here by Instituto.

Instituto's director **Javier Galvan** accompanied Felipe and touched base with the Arts Council once more, promising more events of similar caliber in the future.

Felipe's recital was held at City Sports Club, close to the Ayala Center. The stage was beautifully adorned with red roses. Felipe chose his repertoire very well, featuring works by **Isaac Albeniz, Enrique Granados** and **Manuel de Falla**, the three most outstanding composer/pianists Spain has produced in recent history.

He also played three of his own compositions. From the suite "Momentos" came "Notte di Roma," which evokes an evening in Rome, and "Jennifer's Ballade" which is dedicated to his wife, a music conductor. Most poignant of the three was "Recuerdos de Ubay," which was inspired by his mother's ancestral home in Barrio Ubay in Pulupandan, quite close to Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

For contrast, there was the delicate "Nocturne for piano in C major" by Chopin, and the powerful "Toccata in C minor" by Prokofiev to conclude the performance. There was so much applause that Felipe gave two encores: Lizst's "Hungarian Rhapsody No.2," and one of his most recent compositions, "Hope."

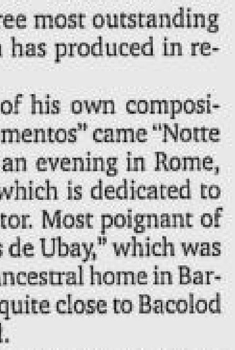
Congratulated for the success of the recital were Arts Council president **Petite Garcia** and members of the event committee: **Chinggay Utzurrum, Vivina Yrastorza, Mariter Klepp** and **Teresing Mendezona,** who did the decor and suggested that the Arts Council lady trustees wear "mantones a la espanola" in welcoming guests. They made a colorful bunch at the recital and the dinner that followed at Casino Espanol.

Next evening, same time and place, but with different floral arrangements, another musical event was presented by the Arts Council. This time, it was an event sponsored by the Embassy of Canada and Canadian Honorary Consulate in Cebu featuring Filipina/Canadian mezzo soprano **Grace Chan** whose collaborating pianist was **Najib Ismail.**

Canadian Ambassador **Robert Collette** attended the affair with his wife **Marilyn** and her parents, **Ronald** and **Jean Wash.** Canada's Honorary Consul in Cebu **Robert Lee** and his wife **Anne** should be credited for the event's success.

INT'L/G3

FILIPINO pianist Najib Ismail



MEZZO soprano Grace Chan

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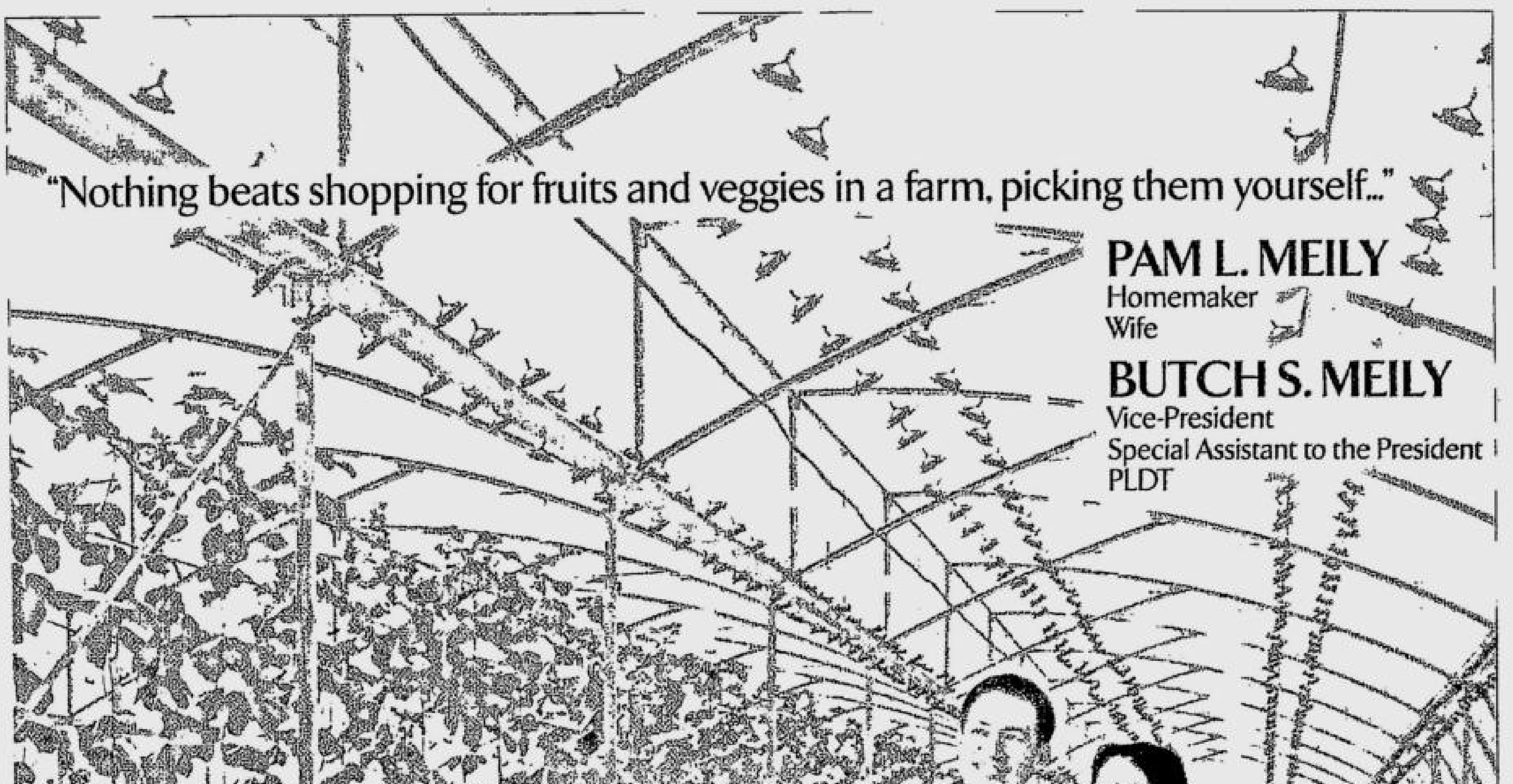

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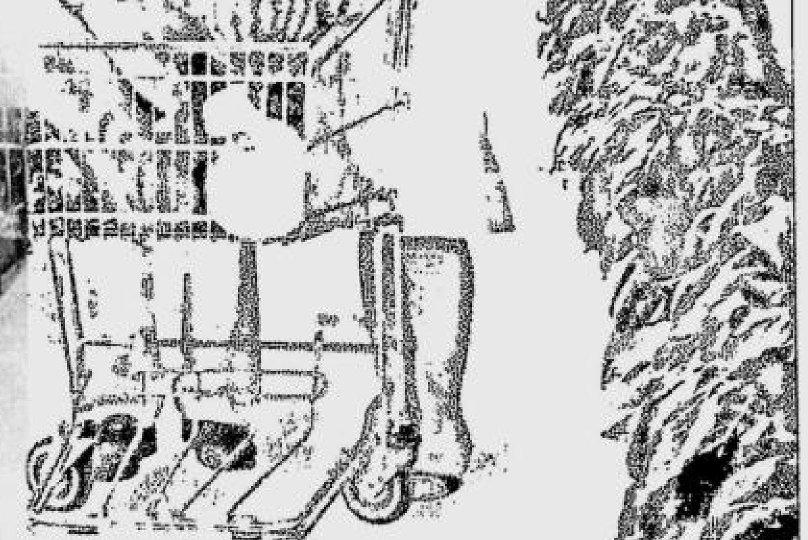

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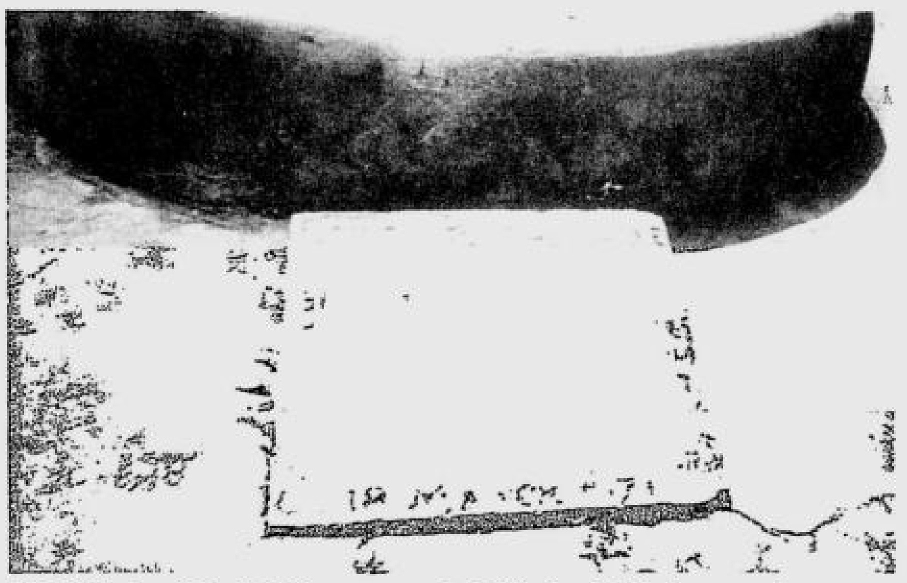
TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**

DAZZLING white-sand beach bids fair to upstage known leisure spots in the country.

There's hope in Pag-Asa



MARKER dated March 1971 announces the Philippines' claim by occupation.

Text and photos
by Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE ADVENTURE began at Sangley Point Naval Station in Cavite City, with a flight to Palawan's capital city of Puerto Princesa.

The Navy plane, a two-engine, 10-seat BN Islander piloted by Lt. Lloyd Lincuna assisted by Lt. Joe Van Nagbanua, took off at 9:40 a.m. and landed at our destination two hours and 45 minutes later.

At 10:55 a.m., the big Northern Palawan island of Busuanga hove into view. It was a thrilling sight.

We were flying at 4,500 feet over some of the most scenic areas of the archipelago. Below us were hundreds of islands and islets with varied shapes, deep blue and aquamarine waters, corals and mangroves, white-sand beach coves, green mountains with patches of brown, and low-lying clouds.

The Calamian Group of Islands. Coron Island and Bay. El Nido and Bacuit Bay. Club Noah Isabelle and Taytay Bay. Dos Palmas and Honda Bay. And on to the capital.

At Puerto Princesa, my colleague Bob Navarro and I were welcomed by our hosts, Rear Admiral Ruben Domingo and Lt. Commander Alberto Carlos of the Armed Forces' Western Command.

In store for us was a rare visit to Pag-asa, an island belonging to the Kalayaan cluster in the disputed Spratlys—a flashpoint in the South China Sea.

"You are to jibe ('join' in military parlance) with the flight of Kalayaan Mayor Rosendo Mantes to Pag-asa," Carlos informed us.

> What an exhilarating experience to be there in the middle of nowhere

"Please do not discuss military matters with the island commander but focus on ecotourism," Domingo said. "We have invested a lot on this island, so it is time for the tourism industry to move in."

This, uh, jibed completely with my own objectives.

The Spratlys serve as a biological seed bank for marine species, including rare and endangered species. There, birds and turtles nest, whales, dolphins and yellow fin tuna migrate, and mackerel, scads, coral reef fish, mollusks, seabirds, shrimps, and mammals propagate.

But the ecosystem is under threat. Environmentalist J.W. McManus ("The Spratly Islands: A Marine Park Alternative") has warned that "already the ecological assets of the Spratlys are being depleted faster than they can be replenished."

"Their fragile ecosystems are being threatened by occupation and construction, by environmentally damaging fisheries practices like muro-ami, and by waste and spills from ship traffic," he added.

One reef, Fiery Cross, has been extensively damaged by dynamite.

Tourism and proposed resorts may help preserve individual, isolated ecosystems, McManus wrote in the ICLARM Quarterly. But what is needed is "a more geographically extensive environmental regime," he said.

Black gold is the unspoken bone of contention among the occupying countries, for the vast region is believed to be teeming with oil deposits.

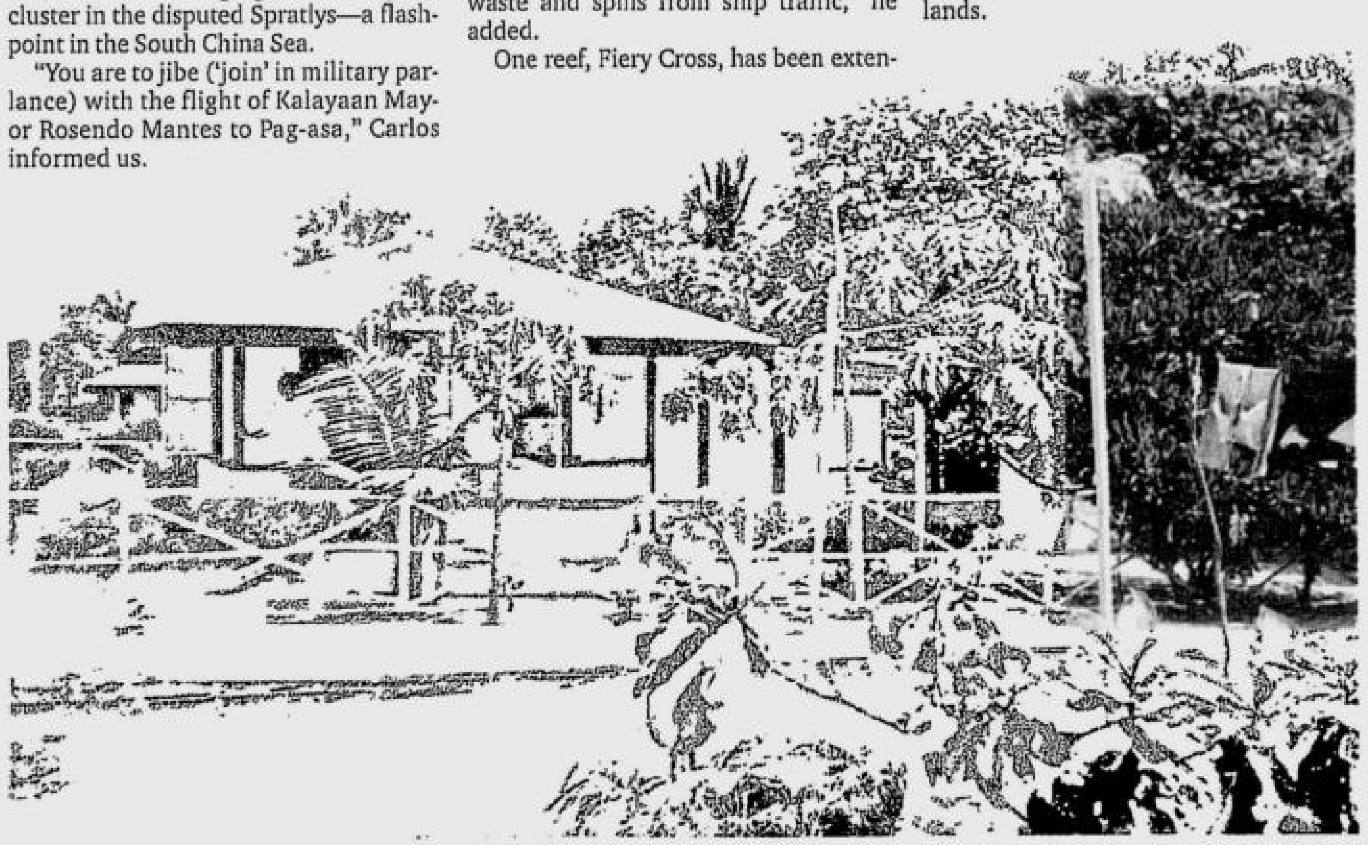
There are more than 400 islands in the Spratlys. The Philippines claims jurisdiction over an area of 65,000 square hectares: 52 islands, islets, shoals, atolls and reefs, all under the Kalayaan cluster, which is classified as a town.

"Nine of these are inhabited by Filipinos," Carlos said.

The story goes that some time ago, a group of Philippine Marines landed on one island. They named it Pugad, played basketball there, and left. When they returned a week later, they found that the island had been occupied by a much bigger Vietnamese force!

Alas, Pugad now has a Vietnamese name, and had to be written off as a Philippine-inhabited island.

Under the Cambodia Agreement, the status quo has to be maintained in the Spratlys. This means that the claimant countries (China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam) should desist from further occupying any other islands.



THESE houses serve as homes for barangay councilors.

"That's why we are for joint use of the islands," Domingo pointed out.

The nine Philippine-inhabited islands are Ayungin Reef, Kota, Lawak, Likas, Pag-asa, Panata, Parola, Patag and Rizal Reef.

Of these, Pag-asa is the most developed. It has an air strip with a 1.3-km runway, watch tower, a naval station, and a thriving community of 140 military personnel and civilian settlers. (The youngest islander is a 3-year-old child.)

Fishing is the main livelihood of the people.

Pag-asa also has a municipal hall, a clinic (as of now a military corpsman attends to the community's health needs), a Philippine National Police building, a Commission on Elections branch, and a local government unit (the mayor and his councilors).

The town fiesta is on April 14. The date falls within Holy Week, so Mayor Nantes is moving the celebrations to April 21. Guests may be accommodated in the Navy's LST ship.

Pag-asa lies 200 nautical miles from Puerto Princesa. Via the BN Islander, it takes two hours and 15 minutes to get there because of the tail winds (and two hours and 30 minutes to return because of the head winds). In command of the same aircraft this time was Carlos, a multi-awarded pilot.

For about an hour, there was nothing but the vast expanse of Marian-blue sea and low-lying clouds. Then the vista became spectacular, as some of the islets (a few looking like sunny-side-up eggs with green-and-brown yolks), shoals and reefs came into view.

At Pag-asa, we were welcomed by the affable island commander, Lt. Jesus Secreto.

The simplest of stone markers declares this "to the whole world": "Be it known that the Republic of the Philippines established its Claim on this and Inhabited this Island now Known as Pagasa by Virtue of its Actual Occupation 18 March 1971."

It is a small island, one you can tour leisurely in 30 minutes. But what an exhilarating experience it was to be there in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by dazzling white-sand beaches, coves, clear waters, and an abundance of trees and wild plant species apparently indigenous to the area. (But the island residents could not identify these.)

The green marine turtle (*pawikan*) is one of the endangered species that can be seen on the island from time to time.

At night the turtles lay their eggs, which, by the estimate of the islanders, will hatch after 55 days. The unfortunate thing is that many of these eggs are vulnerable to natural predators, including humans.

The rate of survival of the *pawikan* eggs is only 5 percent, according to the mayor.

And the trouble-in-paradise syndrome has hit Pag-asa. From time to time there are intrusions by Chinese fishermen who resort to cyanide fishing, use compressors to illegally gather corals, and damage the environment.

"In 10 years time, these foreign fishermen might destroy the island," warned island commander Secreto.

But the mayor believes that "if many tourists come, these fishermen will stop their activities."

The Kalayaan municipal government is now implementing a plan to promote tourism in Pag-asa. A swimming area and dive site—this has got to be the most impressive beach I have seen in 10 years of traveling all over the archipelago—is being developed. A pavilion and some cottages to house guests are under construction.

The possibility of commercial air transport is being studied. At present, only military officials and their guests have access to the island. The BN Islander flies to Pag-asa only when the need arises. The LST vessel plies the route every three months, and the voyage takes all of two days.

Development is geared to draw foreign and local tourists, divers, swimmers and snorkelers, surfers, honeymooners, families on vacation, even yacht owners.

Pag-asa is a dream of an island. Hopefully, it will become a gem of a getaway once the amenities are in place.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Urban resort

NEED a place for a getaway with the family? Somewhere not too far, in fact within the metropolis?

The 225-room "urban resort," the Discovery Suites at the Ortigas Center, has something for every member of the family, says general manager Jack Tuason.

He lists the pool and Action Kidz, the in-house play center, for the children, the Paradigm Salon for moms, the health club for dads, and the Serendipity Lounge for moms and dads.

Families and other guests have a choice of junior suites or 1-, 2-, or 3-bedroom suites. All packages include breakfast at the Serendipity Lounge, complimentary access to the health club, the pool and jacuzzi, free parking, and 20-percent discount at the Discovery Spa.

Call 635-2222 or log on to www.discoverysuites.com.

Family bonding

AT FRASER Place Manila, a summer package allows for family bonding at 3- or 4-bedrooom suites on special rates that also cover complimentary continental buffet breakfast, daily shuttle service to Makati's commercial and business centers, use of swimming pool, gym and game room, and parking.

Local residents, *balikbayan* and expatriates with an Alien Certificate of Registration are eligible for this summer package available until June 15. Guests who take the package will receive a 20-percent discount on services at the Prive Salon and Spa managed by popular hairdresser Geoff Simpson for the duration of their stay.

Call 818-1000, fax to 818-2000, or e-mail dos@fraserhospitality.com.ph.

Anniversary special

YOU can spend Easter holidays at the Pan Pacific Manila as it celebrates its 5th anniversary on April 15-May 31.

Apart from special room rates and packages, all guests checked in during this period are entitled to join a raffle for a trip to Cebu via Philippine Airlines and accommodations at Plantation Bay Resort & Spa.

Easter egg hunting is scheduled on April 20 at poolside.

Call the Butler at 536-0788.

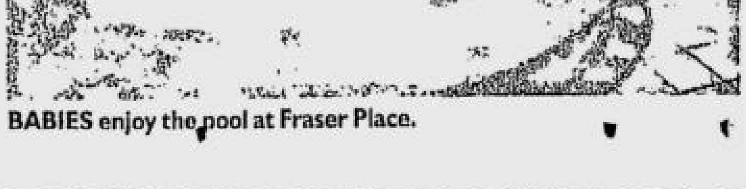
2 promos

AT THE ISLAND Cove Resort in Kawit, Cavite, holidaymakers may choose from two promo packages.

The Family Moments promo (for two adults and two kids, P2,900 net on weekdays and P3,700 net on weekends) and Summer Romance promo (for couples, P2,800 net on weekdays and P3,300 net on weekends) are packaged with leisure and recreational activities, like use of the Oceania pools, hotel pool and outdoor jacuzzi, one round of mini golf, one-hour fishing, one-hour use of the gym, 30-minute use of the KTV room, entrance to the Purple Ostrich Saturday Dance Party, and many more.

Both packages are available until June 30 (except for the period starting Holy Wednesday and ending Easter Sunday). A weekday stay comes with a gift certificate for free entrance and swimming for four persons.

Call (046) 434-0210 in Cavite or (02) 810-3740/5351 in Makati or toll-free numbers (02)810-3718/3732/3764. Or log on to www.islandcovephil.com.



BABIES enjoy the pool at Fraser Place.

ART YOUR SERVICE. (seated) Candice Gotianuy, Mariter Klepp, Elvira Lu Ym and Elena Young; (standing) Chinggay Utzurrum, Marissa Fernan, Bunny Ludo, Alice Plaza, Tetta Ba-ad, Maxwell Espina and Petite Garcia

Int'l pianist's 3rd recital in Cebu

From page G1

Two other events were held at the auditorium of Cebu Normal University. Its president is Dr. **Esther Velasquez.** One was the McLuhan Forum on Media Trends and Issues attended by more than 300 students from various schools. **Miriam Grace Go,** the 2002 McLuhan award winner, was guest of honor.

Another event was held the following morning—the Canada Education Information Seminar. Speaker was **Rana Jaglal,** trade commissioner of the Canadian Embassy.

The Arts Council also holds fund-raisers like the one held at Café George. It is owned by one of the youngest trustees in the board, **Bunny Ludo,** who's also a culinary expert.

One evening in March the café was closed to the public. "Art Your Service," said the bulletin board. Reservations for a four-course dinner were quickly snapped up weeks ahead of the due date. The limit of 90 had to be stretched to 108, never mind how tight, just to accommodate the pleadings. Was it the food? Or the décor by **Pinky Chang** and an army of decorators from Pink Flora? They must have bought every red pepper in the vegetable market for the whole place was festooned with it. Or could it have been the auction of art pieces?

TERESING Mendezona and Instituto Cervantes director Javier Galvan

Yes, maybe, but more than anything else, the Arts Council trustees themselves served dinner, each one balancing two plates, at four relays and of four courses. Vice Mayor **Michael Rama** came, and so did **Ramon Escano Jr.** of Globe, the Arts Council's top sponsor.

Did you know that **Eloisa Fernan** (widow of the late Senate President Marcelo Fernan) creates oil paintings? Those who went to the dinner saw one of her works, quickly snapped up at the auction by **Jun** and **Cherry Muntuerto.** At the end of the evening, the event chairs—**Elvira Lu Ym** and **Marissa Fernan**—were beside themselves with joy.

Feasting on leftovers—more like over runs from a bountiful kitchen—they counted what was in the till. Triple the expectations. What with the cost of a reservation, the pile earned by the auction, and generous tips slipped into the apron pockets of everyone who served. Overwhelmed, Elvira said she was treating everyone to dinner at her home the following Monday.

English seminar for OFWs; creativity camp for kids

CORBAN Learning Center, with Vine Communications Inc., will hold the seminar "English for OFWs" for Pinoys who want to get a grip on the English language. It will be held on May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Beginners will have classes at 1-3 p.m.; and intermediate level, 3-5 p.m. There will be two venues to choose from: Corban Learning Center at Unit F, MB Aguirre Building, President's Avenue corner Elizalde Street, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque; or Vinecom Learning Center at 7 Brooklyn St., Cubao, QC.

The Center also has slated its Summer Creativity Camp for children aged 2½-6 on April 21-May 23, 10 a.m.-12 nn. Call 700-1299 (Cubao), 842-6665, 809-3050 (Parañaque) or (0917) 832-5536 and (0919) 242-0238.

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ROOM RATES PER NIGHT: P4,500 NET/SUPERIOR – P5,500 NET/DELUXE – P6,500 NET/WESTIN EXECUTIVE CLUB

9 am – EASTER MASS/10:30 AM – 2:30 AM – EASTER BRUNCH BUFFET: 925++ adults/500++ kids 12 yrs and below/ 10 am – 3 pm.

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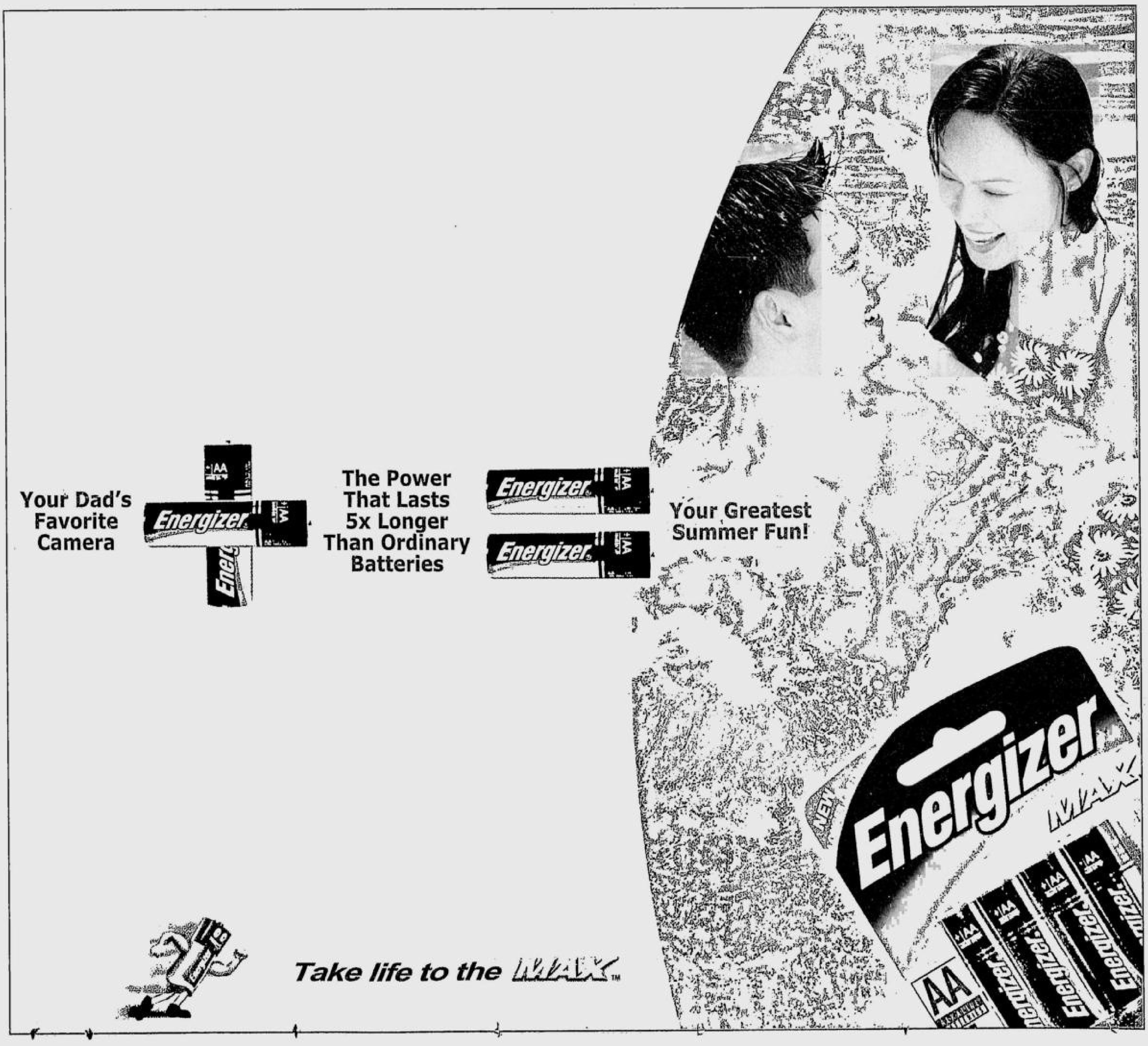
CONDITIONS: Maximum of 3 nights to get free extra night (room only). Rooms are subject to availability. Advance reservation is advised. Easter Tickets are given per stay, not per room night. One ticket for every Easter Brunch Buffet availed of. Rate is valid to local residents and expats with ACRs. Package may not be combine with other promo or discount offers and may not be used for group or corporate bookings. Other conditions applied.



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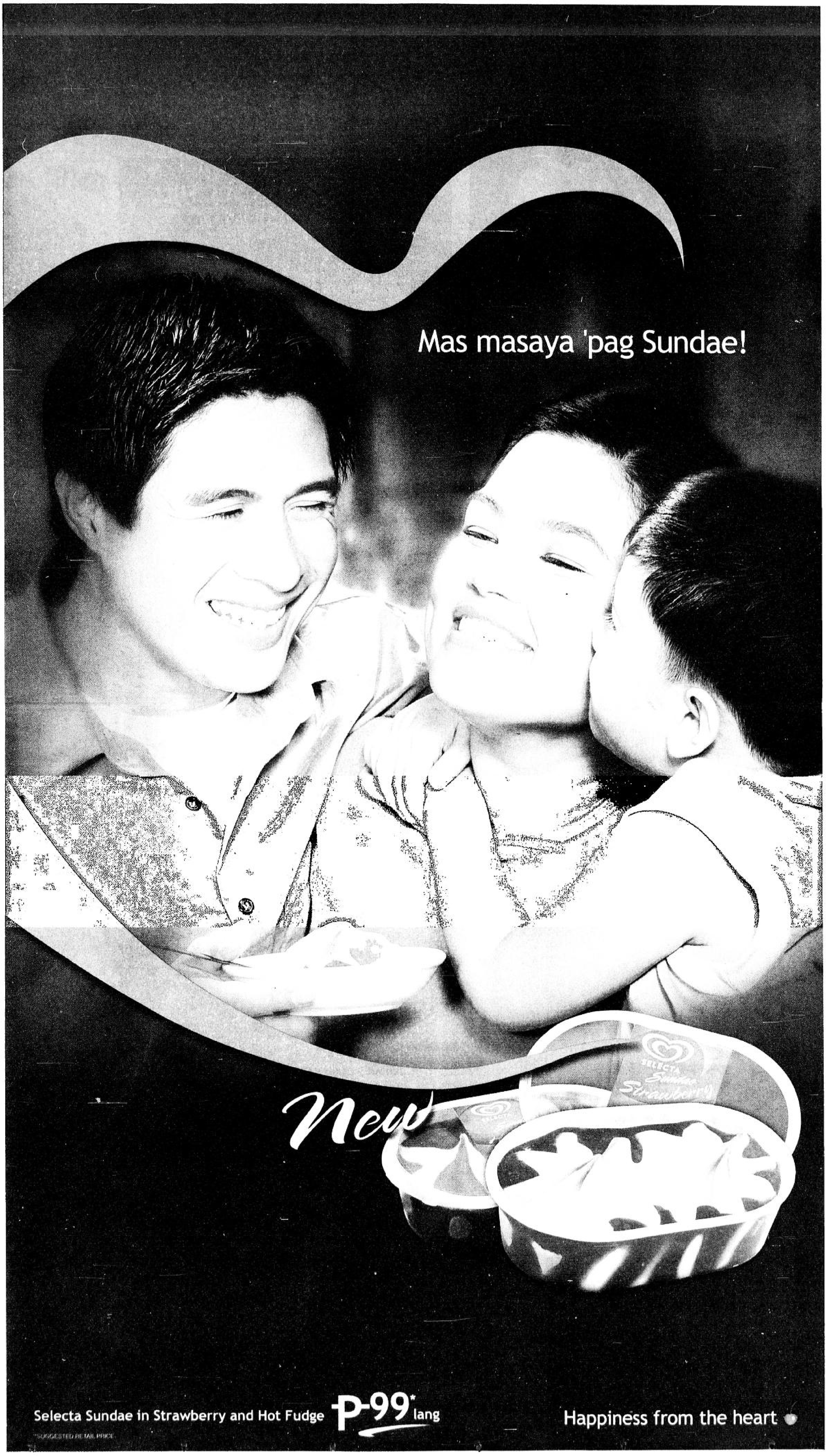

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Philippine Fashion Week on page H2

Coolest phone, coolest games

MUST-HAVE phone—Nokia N-Gage. I have always said the true test of a mobile phone is not how it looks but what games it has.

Enter the Nokia N-Gage or game deck, the latest and coolest phone to date. It is an attempt by Nokia to topple Nintendo.

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

N-Gage has all the features of a mobile phone, including tri-band and MMS (multimedia messaging service). But it is also loaded with a MP3 player, FM radio, e-mail station, Web browser and an integrated recorder for tracks.

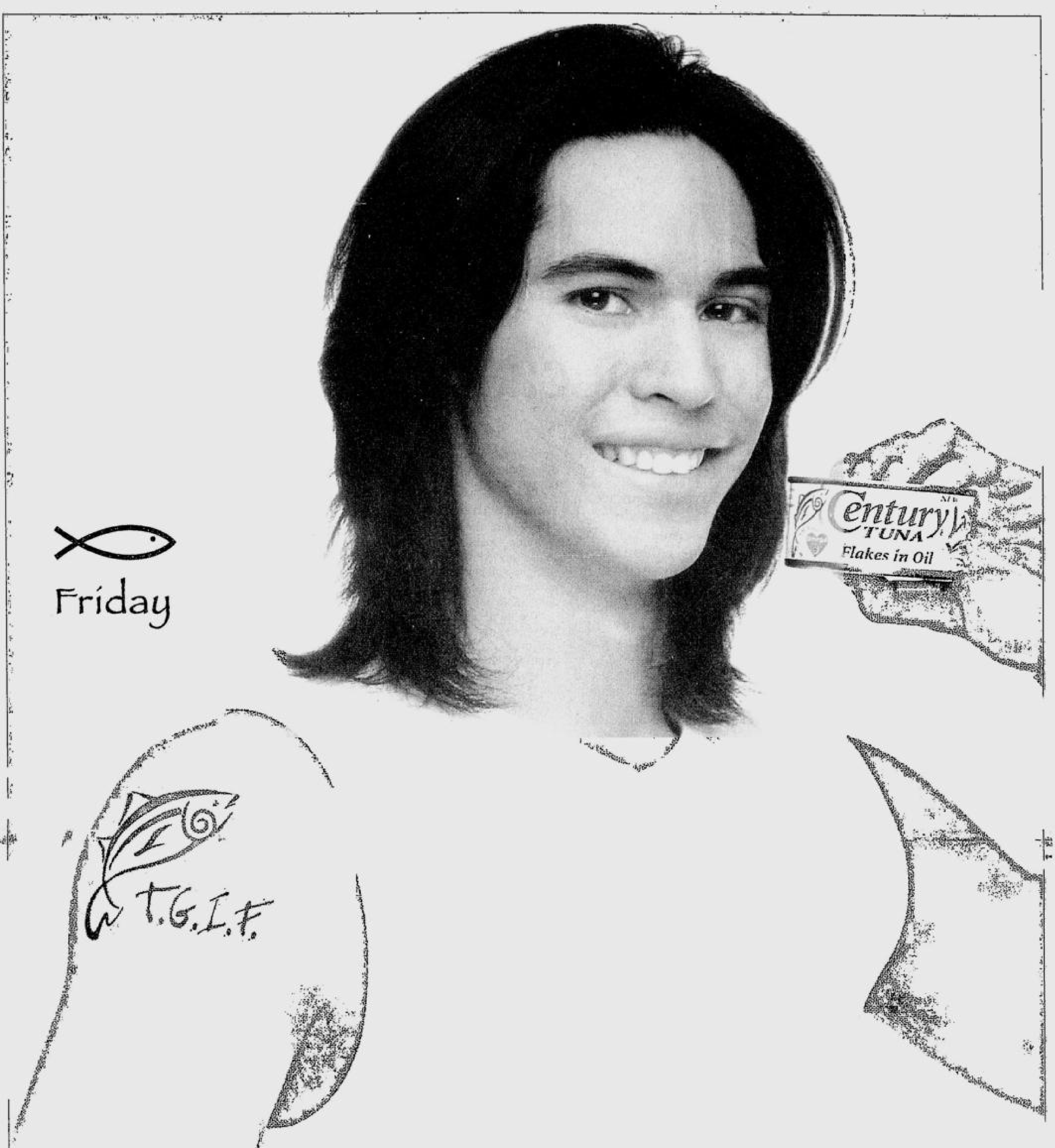
And that's not all. The phone is also a handheld video game machine in the tradition of Nintendo's Game Boy. You can play against other N-Gage owners here and anywhere in the globe.

Stored in memory cards, the games will include the popular Sonic hedgehog and Lara Croft, among others. Nokia N-Gage will be available late this year.

Lipostabil—Better than liposuction? Caught **Vicki Belo** in **Cito Beltran**'s show on ANC. She talked about this new beauty breakthrough that might be better than liposuction since it did not require surgery.

The new procedure involves a cock-

COOLEST/ H3



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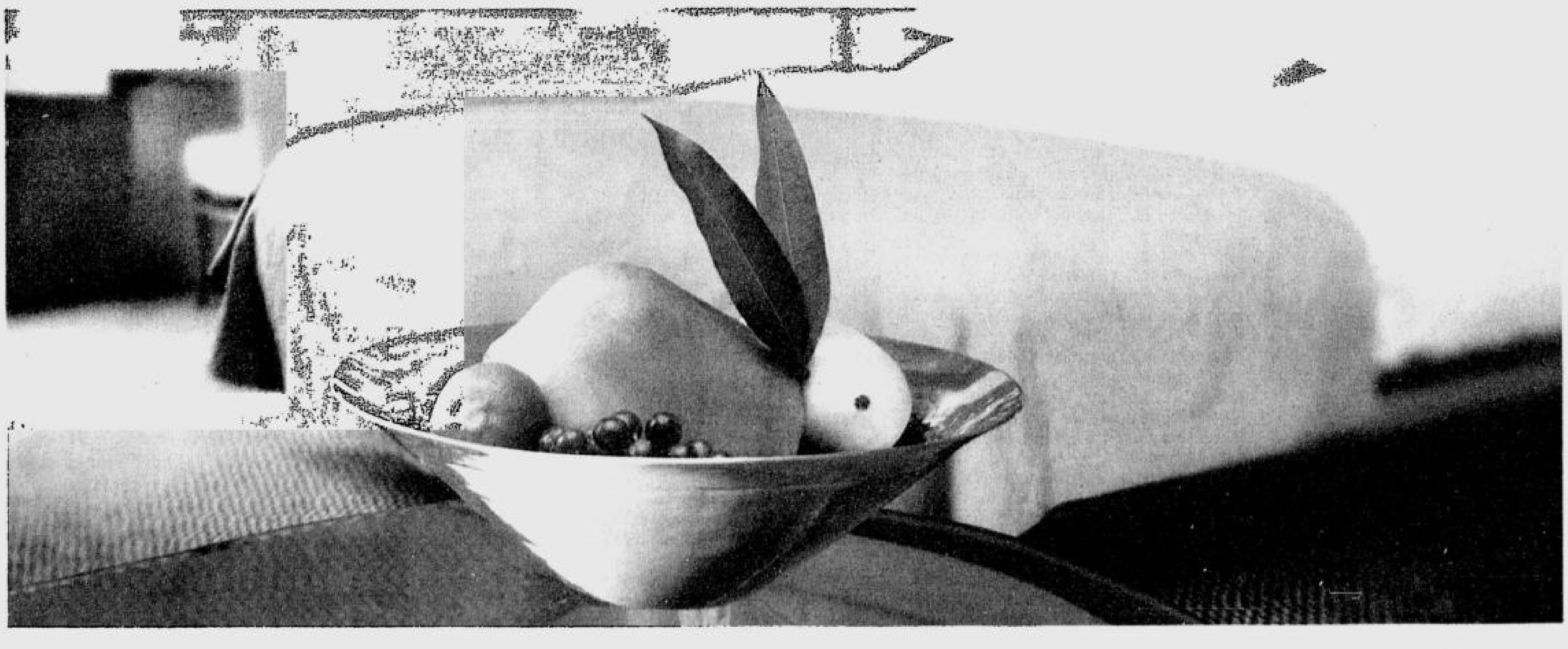

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1486 Series of 2003

RONALD Pasion

MIMI Samson

MIMI Samson

BEA Albert

MIMI Samson

BEA Albert

BEA Albert

No typecasting jeans, please

Six designers interpret Levi's Type I 'individuality'

Text By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

LOTHO

LEVI'S Type 1 Jeans are all about "individuality," and the American classic's latest line couldn't have been more "individual" judging by the dozens upon dozens of deconstructed Type 1 pieces presented two Saturdays ago at the Glorietta Activity Center.

The fashion show was the second featured event in the recent Philippine Fashion Week.

Six of the country's leading stylists cum designers came up with their respective take on Levi's newest reincarnation, each focusing on a specific theme: RCXY Bautista, "Elvis;" Charmaine Palermo, "Opposites Attract;" Bea Albert, "Dynasty;" Lotho, "Africa;" Mimi Samson, "Tribe;" and Ronald Pasion, "Passion."

Levi's seemed to have given them free rein to do whatever they wanted. Aside from the budget for labor and accessories, the company reportedly gave each stylist at least a dozen pairs of jeans, jackets and yards upon yards of denim to work on.

Ironically, Bautista, who worked on the theme "Elvis" is no fan of the King. The designer wanted to pay tribute to rock 'n roll but he could not think of any icon, living or dead (not even The Beatles, Michael Jackson or Madonna), big enough to fill Presley's shoes

He bleached pairs of Type 1 blue jeans to remove the indigo color then dyed them in Popsicle shades such as orange, violet, peach and yellow.

Women with sideburns

In lieu of the King's beaded capes with rhinestones, he worked on fringes, chains and dirty white jackets with splotches of paint. For the total Elvis look, even some female models sported pompadour and side burns.

"The name Elvis, in case you don't know, is composed of the same letters that make up the brand name Levi's," Bautista pointed out. "Before I began my work, I watched a couple of Elvis' videos and his movie 'Blue Hawaii.'"

Palermo celebrated the classic boy-girl relationship in pieces that ranged from dainty to edgy.

Since partners were supposed to complement each other, she made her male-female pairs wear contrasting instead of matching outfits. Palermo wore her heart on her sleeves, using such accents as white feathers, Valentine cutouts and hemlines edged with yards of dainty lace.

"Opposites attract," she said, "and it is this uniqueness that draws two totally different people together. But even the best of partners have their respective differences, and I try to highlight this fact through my clothes."

Samson's wearable collection of beaded jackets, skirts and deconstructed denim dresses were also very feminine.

The colors and patterns of her strings of beads and bangles, although more psychedelic than tribal despite her theme, beguiled the eye.

Bea Albert paid tribute to his Chinese heritage with dark denim pieces with oversized trumpet sleeves, exaggerated collars, tasseled capes, corsets, obi sashes and boxy shawls. The pieces were generally clean and streamlined with hints of top-stitching and beadwork.

"I wanted a collection that was dramatic, feminine and wearable," said Albert.

Wild inspiration

Some of the most complex pieces belonged to Lotho who went to town with his collection inspired by animals found in the African jungles.

Models with disheveled hairdos and black makeup were styled as birds, zebras, cheetahs and giraffes. Denim was almost overlooked with all the amazing details, such as black feathers and faux fur jackets, that caught the audience's attention.

"The inspiration may be rustic, but the look is still very pop," said Lotho.

Pasion poked fun at the current culture of violence by coming out with street wear that fused distressed denim with military punk. Models armed with plastic daggers staged mock fights before blowing bubbles in the audience's direction from the same toys.

SARAH Meier for RCXY Bautista

"I made a mockery of the war with accessories such as weapons meant for fun," Pasion said. "I don't want people to treat my clothes as costumes, because my friends and I wear them ourselves."

In keeping with his desire for "real people" to wear his clothes, he used models who would not make it to the rosters of most agencies. Except for Junel Liwanag and a few other familiar faces, Pasion's outfits were worn by artists Noli Coronado and Kiko Escora and movie stars Jeffrey Quizon and the hefty Michael de Mesa, among others. All for the sake of individuality.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

The out-of-towners

Half of the 14 designers in the Regional Fashion Designers' Collection presented stunning originality while the other half came up with less-than-inspired pieces

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Mike Alquinto

THE PHILIPPINE Fashion Week is decidedly the most anticipated fashion event in the country.

It is always a let down when designers, who have an entire year to prepare for the annual Philippine Fashion Week, show lackluster pieces. And such was the case with the Regional Fashion Designers' Collection. Thankfully, half the pack made the trip to the Glorietta venue worth the brief 30-minute show.

Cebu designers Mario Colmenares, Oj Hofer and Protacio were clearly in their element. Protacio presented three earth-toned pieces that focused on construction more than ornamentation. The short A-line dress in cappuccino offset by a thick chocolate brown sash was a standout.

Hofer showed the only men's apparel in the show—and he didn't disappoint. One was a two-piece suit in luscious butter yellow, the other a sleeveless number with frog closures. His lone design for women was a sexy chinoise-print corset and a gold mini.

It was pure delight to witness a sequence of eight or so models in Colmenares' all-white gowns. With the most number of pieces, the designer let his construction genius speak for itself with nary a bead to accent his dreamy designs, save for strategically placed brooches. He used box pleating in several pieces—on the empire waist of one, on the back of another.

Showing equal mettle were the Davao designers. Aztec Barba displayed some witty details in his clubwear. A crisscross-front stretch beaded top was paired with hot pants with cascading ruffle accent at the back.

Edgar Buyan sewed together vintage finds for his version of cutting-edge street fashion. His jeans were dyed and bleached for a vintage look. A pair was embroidered and sewn in with buttons for accent, and paired with a cropped track sweater.

Though not exactly original, Eric Sapaula splashed much-needed color onto the runway with three designs that were reminiscent of '80s excess. He used bright neon colors in pieces that cleverly looked like they were worn backward.

ALLEN Villena

DODJIE Batu

Poor showing

In contrast, Benjie Panizales presented simple daytime pieces that beautifully mixed plain and plaid fabrics. With a sprinkling of tiny floral appliqués, the results were pretty and very wearable.

Allen Villena did his take on the romantic look with three all-white tops and yellow-striped white pants. The pieces, however, were wanting for a fresh twist.

The *pastillas*-wrapper cutout design of Garimon Roferos worked on two of his strapless dresses—as waist accent on one and, on the other, draped around the top to cascade nicely on the back. But the third, a bolero, looked comically huge and ill-fitted.

Cebu's Jojo Romoff's two royal blue numbers were a study in contrast. His belted coat with slashed sleeves was stunning, but the high-waisted pants with chiffon top seemed askew and poorly constructed. Junjun Escario came up with a winner in a beaded empire gown on model Jo Ann Bitagcol, but his two other pink confections looked trampish.

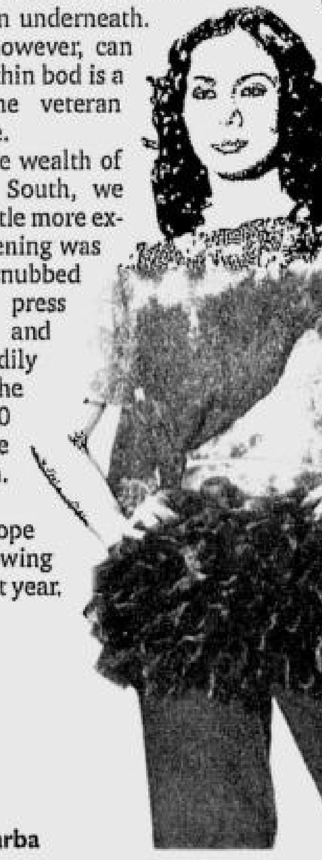
While Arcy Gayatin's black and white numbers needed life and shimmer, Dodjie Batu's showed dizzying layers of multicolored chiffon. (By the way, why were Gayatin's models wearing huge old-lady underpants? The panty lines were glaring underneath the body-skimming dresses.)

Gossamer was on Sherwin Magtulis' menu, with appliquéd sheer tees and pants that flared at the thigh to reveal another layer of chiffon underneath. Wearing them, however, can be tricky; a waif-thin bod is a must, which one veteran model didn't have.

Considering the wealth of talent from the South, we had expected a little more excitement. The evening was conspicuously snubbed by the fashion press that mall-goers and kibitzers rowdily stormed into the empty seats 30 minutes after the scheduled 6 p.m. show.

We can only hope for a better showing and audience next year.

SHERWIN Magtulis


AZTEC Barba

Coolest phone, coolest games

From page H1

tail of lecithin and other ingredients. When injected into fatty tissues, the cocktail is supposed to dissolve them.

Lipostabil is meant for areas too small for liposuction such as the chin, eyebags, wings (think: flabby armpits), love handles, back and lower upper abdomen. Only topical anesthesia is required, and bruising lasts just a few days. It's not a one-time treatment and may take 3-4 sessions done every two weeks.

The procedure is not yet approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, but is used in Europe and South America with amazing results.

For inquiries, call Dr. Vicki Belo's office at 817-7178/9283.

Must-have slippers—Sexy and erotic Gucci footwear. Tom Ford's Gucci collection for Spring/Summer 2003 focuses on romance with a twist.

Ford's obsession with sexual innuendos is well-known and is apparent in his advertising campaigns. They don't show just in his clothes but also in footwear, in this case bedroom slippers.

The English-style slippers may not look very erotic at first, but when the wearer puts his feet together, the embroidery reads SUC KME. How's that for planting ideas in people's heads? Perfect for the wife or lover who's not feeling too amorous.

Must-have look for men—Bare-chested. It's the height of summer and, for men, the best fashion statement is made with the chest. Most designers showcased shirts opened till the third button in their Spring/Summer 2003 shows.

Once I was watching a Tagalog movie on cable, and what struck me was, in the '70s (the movie starred **Jay Ilagan** and **Matt Ranillo**), the men had their shirts open up to the navel and they were not fitness buffs then. They looked great when they were standing, but once they sat down they had 4-5 stomachs.

So there's no reason to be shy. Show off your toned pecs! Here's a tip: Wear a cross necklace, very Dolce e Gabanna.

My Cambodia trip. It was one of the most memorable trips I had had in a long time. The Asia Society, Philippine chapter, organized a five-day trip to Cambodia, which included two days in Phnom Penh, the capital, and three days in Siem Reap, site of the Angkor Wat.

he group was an eclectic but fun bunch, consisting of Ambassador **Alfonso Yuchengco, Doris Ho, Charlie** and **Chinit Rufino, Gigi** and **Ging Montinola, Monique Villonco, Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo**, sisters **Roberta Feliciano** and **Marissa Grassi**, and the younger set of **Ines Delgado** and **Celine Lopez**, to name a few.

The highlight of our stay in Phnom Penh was a meeting with His Majesty, **King Norodom Sihanouk**, at the royal palace; dinner with his son, His Excellency **Prince Norodom Ranariddh**; and the visit to the National Genocide Museum.

The latter really took my breath away. It highlighted the brutality of **Pol Pot**'s reign. The museum was the prison where intellectuals, artists, government officials, etc. were confined. Hanging on the walls of the prison were black and white photos of prisoners with eyes showing despair, sadness and fear.

One of the stories that was deeply etched in my heart was that about 10-year-old kids who were made to kill their parents to show their loyalty to Pol Pot's regime. The museum was a horrific reminder of the past, which hopefully would never be repeated.

Siem Reap was a different story. Angkor Wat and the surrounding temples were peaceful, majestic and breathtaking. If there's one place you should make a point of visiting, after this whole bloody mess of war and SARS, it is this. The temples, as well as the history behind them, were unbelievable.

Although Cambodia is not as developed as the Philippines (well, give it five years), it's amazing how the government and non-government organizations are helping to preserve the country's culture and heritage.

Of course, the whole trip would not be complete without a major faux pas. Doris asked me to sing (she knows I am a frustrated singer) for the Prince.

The people I usually sing to (think: karaoke) are always captive audiences (think: No escape!). The quartet that was to accompany me had a limited repertoire, the only song I knew from their list was "La Vie en Rose" (English version).

I got through the first line, then I stopped because I forgot the rest of the lyrics. So I said, "Am sorry, Your Majesty. I forgot the lines."

To make a long story short, I only sang the first and last lines. When we brought the Prince to his car, he shook my hand and said, "You are Mr. La Vie en Rose."

After he said it, I thought, "Was that positive?"

Another major faux pas happened. In the plane, coming home, Monique Villonco showed us the beautiful photos she took. I also wanted to show off the photos, I took since it was the first time I brought my PC. After every trip to the temple or dinner I would download the photos I took when I returned to the room, label and airbrush them and correct the colors.

There was one photo I did not like so I decided to delete it. But the unthinkable happened: I highlighted all 150 photos and, in one touch of the button, deleted them all!

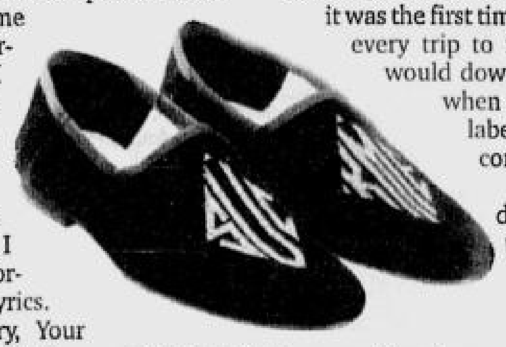
Five days of poses, laughter, beautiful scenery, group shots and, the best part of all was, I was in all of them! I wanted to cry and I think I must have turned pale.

Oh well, as they say, you can't cry over deleted photos, especially if you don't know how to use the darn computer.

Despite that, I would highly recommend a visit to Cambodia. It's a beautiful place and you won't regret it.

Also, stick to instamatic cameras.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com


MUST-HAVE slippers—Gucci's sexy and erotic footwear

NOKIA
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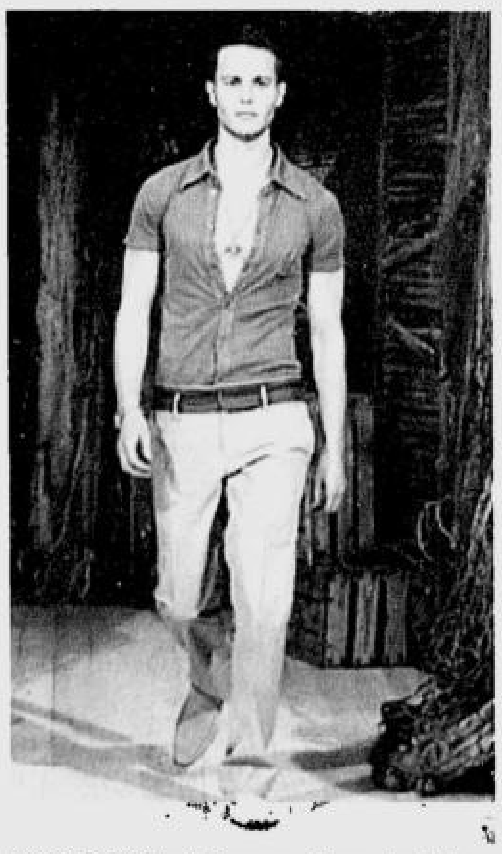
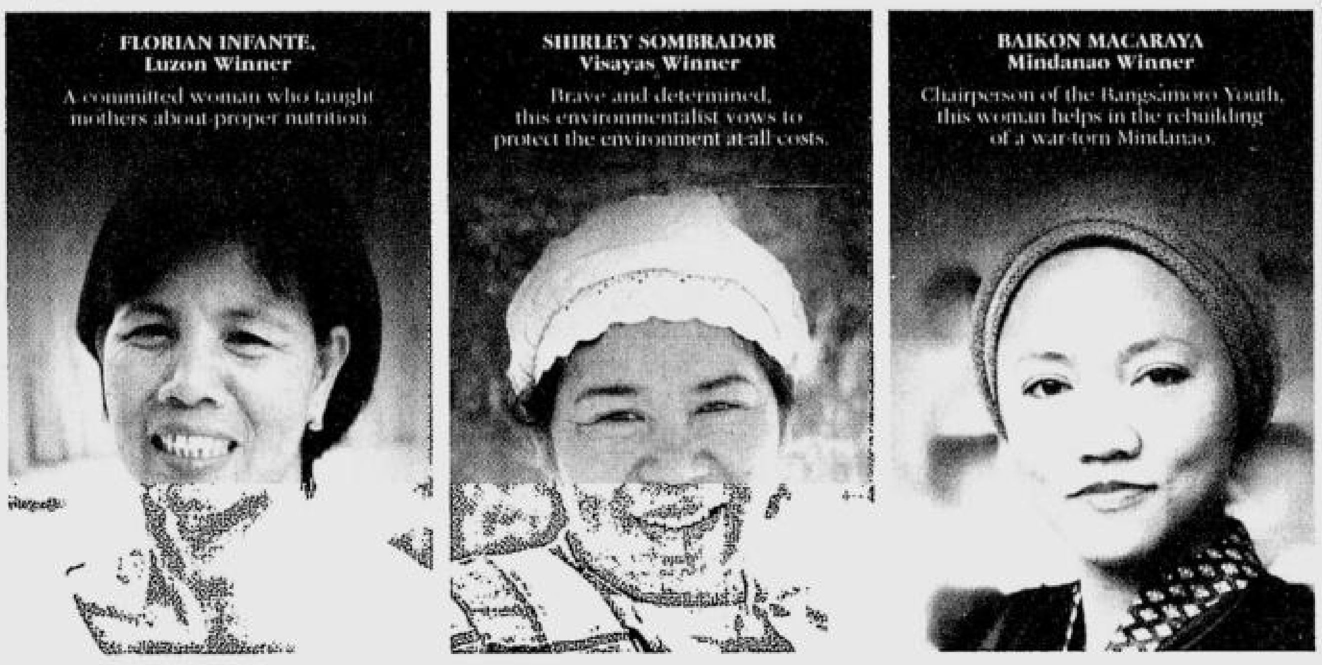
MUST-HAVE phone—Nokia N-Gage


MUST-HAVE look for men—Bare-chested and proud!


FLORIAN INFANTE,
Luzon Winner
A committed woman who taught mothers about proper nutrition.
SHIRLEY SOMBRADOR
Visayas Winner
Brave and determined, this environmentalist vows to protect the environment at all costs.
BAIKON MACARAYA
Mindanao Winner
Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Youth, this woman helps in the rebuilding of a war-torn Mindanao.

Our models aren't shallow.

In fact, they're quite inspiring.

All these Dove Bukod Tanging Filipinas.

They broke barriers, they enriched lives,

they moved us. And for doing so,

we salute them.

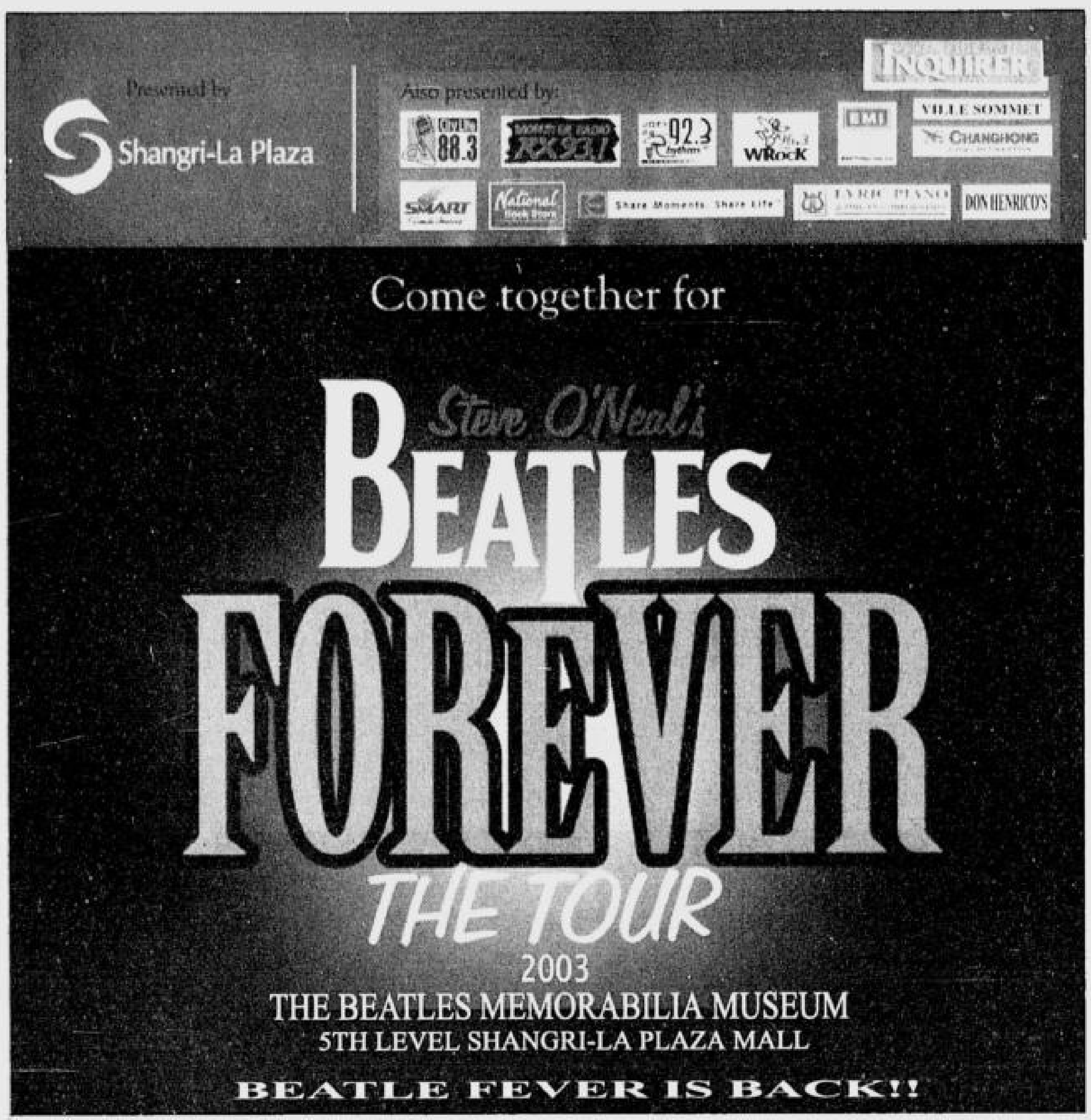
SUSAN BAGARES
Taught alternative livelihood to relocated women in her native Cebu
TERESITA REYES
A labandera who feeds and teaches street children with money from her own pocket
NENA TWALANG
T'boli leader and environmentalist for the lakes of South Cotabato
EVELYN MAAGHOP
Founded Ephpheta School and gives free education for deaf-mutes
BETTY COLMO GOBAL
Manobo tribal leader who started a cultural regeneration to preserve its identity
ESPERANZA GONZALES
Cancer survivor who spawned a micro lending scheme in her barangay

Dove

BUKOD TANGING

Filipina

2003



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HOW TO JOIN?
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Ex. BT JOIN Gina Santos/5l Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Mand. City/25
Note: Those who have not registered but have typed "BT" only will receive their daily push of BEATLES question but will not qualify for the prizes.

Succeeding questions will be sent after the first question has been answered regardless if answer is right or wrong.
To get list of other commands:
Type BT LIST then send to 269
To get your playing status:
Type BT S then send to 269

HOW TO PLAY?
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(Ex. BT A)

TO QUIT THE GAME:
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The participant will be charged P2.50 for every message sent to 269.

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Promo starts April 13, 2003 and ends until July 6, 2003
Per DTI – NCR Permit no. 0749 Series of 2003

UNIFEM Philippines president Georgitta Pimentel Puyat (third from left), Erlinda Palileo (left) and Betsy Enriquez (right), trustees of Unifem Phils. welcome Maria Ressa, guest speaker of the International Women's Day Celebration at the Manila Polo Club lobby.

Unifem and Zonta celebrate international women's day

THE UNITED Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) Philippine Committee and Zonta Foundation Philippines recently celebrated International Women's Day at the Main Lounge of Manila Polo Club in Makati City. In attendance were members of the Diplomatic Corps, government agencies, the fourth estate, various women NGOs and the founders, officers and members of Unifem Philippines and Zonta Foundation Phils.

The day's commemoration was dubbed "A Celebration of Woman," which highlighted the gains and accomplishments of the movement to advance the condition of the world's women against feminized poverty, gender-based violence and inequality.

Unifem Philippines president Georgitta Pimentel Puyat opened the program by reading Dr. Maya Angelou's poem titled "Phenomenal Woman," a fitting tribute to the theme of the celebration. The poem exemplified the powerful mystique every woman possesses. Puyat proceeded to induct new Unifem members: Lisa Alvendia, Desi Tomas, Cynthia Henson, Virginia Verora, Patria Cordero and Dr. Carol Sobritchea.

The keynote speaker, Maria Ressa, Cable News Network's (CNN) first female correspondent and bureau chief in Asia, captured the audience's admiration when she shared her experiences as a journalist and "breaking the glass ceiling" in a field predominantly held by males. Rina Jimenez David of the INQUIRER and Domini Torrevillas of Philippine Star, both advocates of women's cause, gave their respective reactions to Ressa's speech.

Zonta Foundation also Recognized Zonta Club of Laguna (first place), and Zonta Club of Mandaluyong-San Juan 11 (second place) for their respective outstanding livelihood projects. Three outstanding women micro-entrepreneurs were also awarded: Eva de la Rosa of Laguna (first place), cap-making business; Ofelia Auson of Pateros-Taguig (second place), hamburger and hotdog stand; and Edna Pepano of Naga (third place), mini satellite diesel station.

Unifem was born in response to the call of thousands of women for a Fund within the United Nations system to help improve the living standards of women in developing countries and to address their concerns. The Unifem Philippine Committee is the sole representative of Unifem in the country and is one of 19 national committees worldwide recognized by Unifem New York and the only one in a developing country.

Unifem Philippines officers and trustees are: Olga Martel (chair), Georgitta Puyat (president), Virma Vergel de Dios Alma Calleja, Lourdes Quezon, Mabel Abano, Carmen Africa, Elizabeth Enriquez, Erlinda Panlilio with Sen. Letty Shahani and Erlinda Villanueva as advisers.

Zonta Foundation Phils. is headed by chair Erlinda Panlilio, and president Herminia Fajardo with trustees Erlinda Pastoral, Erlinda Villanueva, Lourdes Sese, Virma Vergel de Dios, Marinela Velez, Maria Ang and Erlinda Sunico.

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You will need to provide the following:
☐ Broadband Internet with about 32 Kbps bandwidth (about 16,000/month)
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INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
Global 9, Inc
(02) 728-3000 loc. 35
(0917) 833-0421

WANTED
30 staff auditors

Male and Female, accounting graduates, in their early 20's, proficient in the use of computerized office productivity tools such as Excel and Word, will be the ideal candidate. Assignments will primarily be in Metro Manila, although some travel may be required.

The requirement is urgent, hence, starting April 21, 2003, interested parties may bring their resumé to Ms. Kat Nolasco, at Manila Consulting, Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center, Valero corner Sedeño Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. 830-2033.

Rustan's

urgently needs ...

ACCOUNTING/FINANCE MANAGERS

- Female, between 28 to 38 years old
- CPA, with at least two (2) years experience in Treasury, Financial Planning & Control, Accounting & Reconciliation, Budgeting and other related functions, in a managerial capacity
- Must have high attention to detail and great numerical skills
- Highly motivated and results oriented
- Must be computer literate and an excellent leader

MERCHANDISE MANAGERS

- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course preferably with excellent academic records
- with at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must have good communication skills
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense

AUDIT MANAGER/ANALYST

- Female, at least 26 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year degree course
- With at least two (2) years actual work exposure in External/Internal Audit
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, positive work attitude, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated, results-oriented and hardworking
- Analytical and must have good communication skills

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of Management, Business Administration, Marketing, Economics or any business related course
- Preferably with at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business with focus in Marketing
- Must be good in Information Research, Project Management, Coordination & Analysis
- Must possess an analytical mind, be able to command respect and deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

HUMAN RESOURCE SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Accounting, Finance or any business related course
- At least one (1) year experience in payroll and benefits (knowledge in Peopleware System is an advantage)
- Highly computer literate with extensive knowledge in Word, Excel and Outlook
- Fluent in both oral and written communication
- People-oriented, trustworthy and able to work under pressure

ACCOUNTING/FINANCE SUPERVISOR

- Between, 21 to 35 years old
- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- Must be results oriented and highly analytical
- With one or two years work experience in accounting field
- Must be computer literate
- Willing to work beyond regular working hours

PRODUCT QUALITY AND CONTROL COORDINATOR

- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Clothing Technology, computer literate
- Knowledge in garments specification and standards
- Background in apparel is an advantage
- Fluent in both oral and written communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATES

- Between 18-28 years old
- At least 2 yrs. college level
- 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Good in oral communication skills

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact number, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
HUMAN RESOURCE & ORGANIZATION
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
El Mercasol Bldg.
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

JOIN A GROWING BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

Two opportunities exist to join the Secretariat of the **Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines Inc (ANZCHAM).** Both positions are demanding and require people with well-developed experiences, communication skills and work ethics.

EVENTS MANAGER

Responsibilities include planning and organizing all business and social events including Members Monthly Meetings, Business Awards, Joint Foreign Chambers Meetings, business breakfast/lunch/dinner meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars, trade shows. Other events include annual golf tournament, pub/networking nights, annual Australian Football League Grand Finals and other social gatherings for the Australian and New Zealand communities based in Metro Manila. Lining-up of guest speakers for monthly meetings; Preparing reports, briefs and budget for every event; Meeting with sponsors, committees and speakers to plan scope and format of events; Coordinating services for events, such as accommodation and transportation, catering, signage, display booths/ banners, audio-visual equipment, and liaising with hotels and suppliers; Organizing registration of participants, preparing programs, kits, welcome and background speeches for the Chamber President; and Reporting directly to the President, Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Chamber.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES/ COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Responsibilities include liaison with members; Recruitment of new members from Australian, New Zealand, Filipino and other foreign businesses; Writing, editing and publication of newsletters, electronic bulletins and membership directory; Website maintenance; Assisting Membership, Communications and Sponsorship Committees, preparing minutes of Committee meetings, etc; Seeking advertisers for the newsletter and website; and Coordinating the monthly newsletter and annual membership directory.

Both positions report to the Executive Director. Initial remuneration will be based on qualifications & experience and on performance thereafter. Interested parties may email their application letters, resumes, references and a one-page writing sample to the ANZCHAM Executive Director at esecretary@anzcham.com or by mail to ANZCHAM, 7/F Oakwood Premier, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. **All applications must arrive not later than 5:00 pm, 15 April 2003.**

Finance & Accounting Opportunities

Enhance your skills and gain world-class experience at Accenture, the world's leading management consulting and technology services company. Committed to innovation, our people work with clients every day to turn ideas into reality and deliver tangible business results. This includes long-term outsourcing projects where our Services workforce is responsible for managing and operating essential business processes such as IT, finance and HR for our clients.

We are looking for professionals at all levels for a range of finance and accounting positions in our Business Process Outsourcing practice:

Processors (Ref. BPO2-AS/AN)

If you are a business graduate with a finance and accounting background and have a talent for problem-solving and analysis, you could build a career in our Services workforce. We will support you with on-going training in financial business processes to help you deliver results for our clients and develop your skills. As an individual, you should be able to communicate well with people at all levels and enjoy working as part of a team. You will need a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications and you must be willing to work overtime in varying shifts as required.

Supervisors (Ref. BPO2-EH)

As a business graduate with at least 3 years experience in a supervisory position and a solid finance and accounting background, you could develop your career in our Services workforce. You will need a good grasp of operations metrics, customer or client service levels, and client relationships, as well as a thorough working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications and excellent written and spoken English. We will support you with on-going training in financial business processes to help you deliver results for our clients and develop your skills. As an individual, you will be able to communicate well with people at all levels and demonstrate strong leadership skills. You should also have a talent for problem-solving and analysis. You will need to be flexible and willing to work on extended and varying shifts as required.

Managers (Ref. BPO2-MGR)

If you are looking for the right place to use your management skills and experience, you should choose a career at Accenture. You should be a business graduate with a strong finance and accounting background, at least six years experience of managing a large team and a good grasp of operations metrics, customer or client service levels, and client relationships. You will also be familiar with performance management tools and processes. You will need a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications as well as excellent written and spoken English. We will support you with on-going training in financial business processes to help you deliver results for our clients and develop your career. As an individual, you will be able to communicate well with people at all levels, both internally and externally, and be a strong leader with a talent for administration and supervision. You will need to be flexible and willing to work on extended and varying shifts as required.

In any Services position at Accenture, you'll always be ahead of the game because you'll have access to best practice and the latest tools and technologies in your area. You will have scope to grow and develop your skills. And you'll have a key role where your contribution will be recognized and rewarded.

If you want a career that delivers real value for Accenture and for you, contact us today. Send your resumé, a recent photo and a transcript of records to: Accenture Recruiting Unit, 3/F MSE Bldg, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Alternatively, fax to 849-5003 or e-mail to Manila.RecMgr@accenture.com, quoting the relevant reference code.

For more information on careers at Accenture, visit us at www.careers.accenture.com/philippines/services

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One of the country's leading pre-need companies has job openings for

AREA MANAGERS

(For Metro Manila South, North Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol Region, Central Visayas & Western Visayas)

- Male/Female, at least 35 years old
- College graduate preferably of any Business or Management course
- With at least five (5) years of sales management experience
- With administrative ability to organize & develop a sales organization
- Hardworking, dedicated, results-oriented & competitive
- Of good moral character
- With positive and winning attitude

DISTRICT MANAGERS

(For Tarlac, Cabanatuan, Urdaneta, Angeles, Novaliches, Malabon, Cainta, Las Piñas, Batangas, Daet, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Davao, Cagayan de Oro & General Santos)

- Male/Female, at least 30 years old
- College graduate, preferably a major in Marketing/Business Management
- Leadership & management track record Minimum of three (3) years sales management experience
- Able to organize & develop a sales organization
- Good in written and oral communication
- Of good moral character Respected/honorable member of his/her community
- With established residence
- Hardworking, organized and results-oriented
- With positive and winning attitude

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST

- Male, single, between 21-25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year course with major course work in computer engineering, computer management or related field
- Knowledge of network facilities, computer hardware and software; network operating system and security policies and procedure, and help desk environment
- Skill in communicating technical material; in the use and support of PCs and in troubleshooting information systems
- Ability to troubleshoot/repair computer equipments

CORPORATE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Male/Female, at least 21 years old
- New graduates are welcome
- Responsible, hardworking and goal-oriented
- Of good moral character
- With positive and winning attitude

FAMILY COUNSELORS
(Sales Agents)

For Memorial Park (Metro Manila only)
For Life Plan & Educational Plan (All cities/ municipalities where there are HPPI branches)

- Male/Female, at least 25 years old
- Preferably with sales experience
- Responsible, hardworking and goal-oriented
- Of good moral character
- With positive and winning attitude

Attractive compensation and/or commission package await successful candidates.

Interested applicants may submit their application letter, comprehensive resumé
with recent 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:
The Personnel Department
6th Floor, Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 927-9671 to 75 * 920-2876 * 929-6611/12 * Fax 926-7328
Or e-mail us at hppijobs@mail.com

Manager Finance

- **Fiji Based Position**
- **Exceptional Opportunity**

The **Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority**, an equal opportunity employer, is the premier revenue collection agency for the Fiji Government. The Authority seeks an innovative, highly experienced and exceptional individual for the position of Manager Finance.

Reporting to the Director of Corporate Services, you will be responsible for the overall management and leadership of the Finance Division including treasury, budgetary control and asset management. Key responsibilities include:

- Timely provision of financial and management reporting information;
- Budget and cash flow preparation and forecasting;
- Development of business plans; and
- Developing and implementing policies and procedures for the management of finances.

To be successful in this position, you will be a lateral thinker, be results-oriented and possess a mature work attitude. Excellent communication, organisational and team leadership skills are vital, together with the proven ability to coach and develop staff.

A qualification in accounting, commerce or a related discipline is required together with substantial experience and a track record of significant achievement in a similar role. You should have membership of a recognised professional accounting body.

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Enquiries about the position should be directed to Michael Yee-Joy on email myee.Joy@kpmg.com.fj, telephone (679) 330 1155 or fax (679) 330 1312. Please apply in writing enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae and referees to "Manager Finance", KPMG, GPO Box 32, Suva, Fiji Islands or email the above address by no later than 4pm Friday 18 April 2003.

Applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

kpmg

VOLVO

88 ADB Ave. cor. Opal Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

FIELD SALES EXECUTIVES

Male/Female coll. grad., ambitious, resourceful, smart, cheerful, articulate, trustworthy, intelligent, outgoing, excellent PR

WANTED

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Ask for Paolo 635 3468

Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:

HEALTH/POPULATION/NUTRITION MANAGER

Reporting directly to the Deputy Country Director of the Philippines Field Office, the Health Manager will be primarily responsible for providing overall direction to the health, population and nutrition efforts of the Philippines Field Office. He/she will provide technical inputs to the Health Coordinators in existing program areas related to the implementation of programs/projects under Save the Children's Sectoral Program Initiatives Team (SPRINT). He/she shall also serve as a liaison for health initiatives between Save the Children and its partner agencies. He/she may also be requested to provide technical assistance to these partner agencies. He/she shall also be responsible for providing direction to resource generation in this sector and for coordinating efforts in pursuing funding opportunities.

Key responsibilities:
The Health/Population/Nutrition Manager shall: (1) provide technical inputs for programming and decision-making related to the health, population, nutrition sector, (2) Prepare project proposals for submission either to funding agencies or to other Save the Children offices, and develop/refine HPN strategies towards scaling up or institutionalization, (3) provide technical support for the Health Coordinators in existing program areas, (4) Coordinate with head office HPN staff and provide them with inputs/ technical support for securing central grants for this sector, (4) Prepare reports to funding agencies, home office, partner organizations and the Deputy Field Office Director, (5) Document experiences in sectoral programming for publication, technical presentation to local and international audience or for circulation among special groups.

The position will be based in Metro Manila and will require periodic travel to other program areas Iloilo and Mindanao. During these trips, HPN Manager is expected to prepare detailed scopes of work, trip reports and similar documentation of activities undertaken in the field.

Requirements:
This is a senior position requiring strong leadership and management skills; Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO highly preferred; Bachelor's degree in health or related discipline required; Minimum of ten years program development experience. Demonstrated training and research skills. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumés on or before **April 28, 2003** to : *By mail* - CODE: HPN MGR, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax*: (632) 853-02-15. *By e-mail*: elopez@savechildren.org (please indicate code "HPN MGR" in subject line).

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TRAVEL COUNSELORS

- Must at least possess a minimum of two years travel/ airline experience
- Proficient in GDS such as Abacus, Galileo, Amadeus and/or other airline systems such as Speedwing, Gabriel and Sonic
- Willing to work in variable work shifts and extended hours
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Team player and with good understanding of customer Service
- Opportunity is open for fresh graduates of Tourism, Foreign Service, International Studies and other related courses and at least knowledgeable in any of the following GDS Reservation Systems such as Abacus, Galileo, Amadeus and/or other airline systems such as Speedwing, Gabriel and Sonic

As these are **URGENT** requirements, all interested applicants are requested to personally submit their updated CV's from **Monday to Friday, 8:00AM-5:00PM** to our HRD.

SYKES

28F Robinson Summit Bldg.,
6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1200
E-mail: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com;Website: http://www.sykes.com

CATHAY PACIFIC

Cathay Pacific Airways, Ltd.

is in need of a

PASSENGER SALES EXECUTIVE

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a 4-year college degree, preferably in Management or related course
- Minimum of 2 years' work experience in Sales or any related field
- Customer sales exposure will be an asset
- Hardworking, diligent, with a high degree of motivation
- Good oral, writing, and numeracy skills
- Mature, responsible, patient and has initiative
- Prepared to work long hours and over holidays
- Proficient in computer applications (Microsoft office).

Interested parties may send their comprehensive bio-data and passport sized photo to:

Makati Central Post Office box no. 2585
Attention: Assistant Manager – Passenger Sales

Deadline for submission is 21 April 2003.

Candidates with previously filed applications in the last six months NEED NOT APPLY.

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

ADB

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Web Systems Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position directly reports to the Web Supervisor.

Description of Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for designing, developing, implementing, and maintaining the web-based systems of ADB's external web site and supervising the site's technical direction and growth.

The position is specifically responsible for:

- supervising the technical direction and growth of the internet web site to ensure application of appropriate technologies and support services;
- assisting in overseeing all aspects of technical support of ADB's external web site;
- assisting in planning, monitoring, and administering the acquisition of computer hardware and software for web site operations;
- initiating the development, testing, implementation, and evaluation of new online applications;
- supervising Internet web server operations (Windows NT2000 and Linux platforms) for supporting the ADB web site and a web hosting agreement with a major telecommunications firm;
- identifying ways to improve the usability of the web site and developing appropriate technical solutions; and
- liaising and collaborating with key departments, e.g. Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST), Central Operations Services Office (COSO), on web-related technical issues.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a college degree;
- at least 5 years web experience, including internet networking and digital media; preferably at least 3 years should be within a multilateral organization or similar institution;
- ability to design and maintain a complex web site that manages over 20,000 files; has produced and managed a complex web site with database back-end support;
- ability to synthesize various disciplines, e.g. information architecture, user interface design, database development, programming, and graphic design; and
- has integrated legacy information systems into the site's workflow.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Download the application form at **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp** and email as attachment to ls-jobs@adb.org. or send application, quoting **Ref No. EXT-SS03-034(3)-OER, by 29 April 2003** to:

Human Resources Division
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines
Tel: 632-4444 • Fax: 636-2550

Due to the large number of applications normally received, only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Applications submitted without quoting the job reference number or sent to an e-mail address other than stated above will not be entertained.

Asian Development Bank
www.adb.org

The **WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT ~ PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT**
is a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health
with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP ~ PC works in close collaboration with its partners—the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs—to improve the health and status of women, through the use community health development techniques which enable women at the barangay level to identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALISTS

for its offices in Tacloban and Butuan

Qualifications:
The person we are looking for will have: a relevant social science qualification, with relevant research units experience, as well as knowledge and experience in research and monitoring and evaluation techniques utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data and information. Familiarity with community based programs and projects would be an advantage.

ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Interested and Qualified Applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resume by email or fax on or before 21 April 2003, to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: fad-whsm@pacific.net.ph

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SALES EXECUTIVES

(For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos)

Will be responsible for promoting and selling digital copiers and printers

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience in selling office machines and equipment; a good working knowledge in computer operation, applications and networking are major advantages
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

Competitive compensation, high commission and a rewarding professional career await successful candidates

Qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail their resume with photo to:

Ms. Armela Cruz
Recruitment & Training Group
U-BIX CORPORATION
1331 Angono St., Makati City
E-mail Address: hrd@ubix.com.ph

Previous applicants need not apply

Konica EPSON RISO okamura

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Supplier-Distributor of quality building materials need qualified applicants for the following positions:

SALES OFFICER

- Male, 24 to 30 years old; College Degree Holder preferably Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering or related business courses; Proficient in both written and oral English; Honest and hardworking; Preferably with previous selling experience in the construction industry, either for projects or dealers

RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATE

- Male, 21 to 28 years old, College level, Proficient in written and oral communication; Honest and hardworking; Preferably with selling experience

INVENTORY CLERK

- Male/Female, 25 to 35 years old; BSC major in Accounting, Computer literate; Proficient in written and oral communication; At least 3 years experience; Honest and hardworking

APPLICANTS MUST SEND THEIR RESUMÉS WITH TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD WITH PICTURE TO:

TASCO, INC.
No. 70, 20th Avenue, Murphy, Quezon City
Phone Nos 911-6207, 911-8891

Wanted Immediately

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN MATH

- College graduate, major in Math

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN SCIENCE

- College graduate, major in Chemistry or Biology

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN PRESCHOOL

- College graduate, major in Early Childhood Education
- Creative and can work under pressure
- Teaching experience is an advantage

ALL APPLICANTS:

- 22-25 years old
- With good academic records
- Can do copyreading, proofreading, and mechanical editing
- Editing experience is an advantage
- Good in written and oral communications

Please send letter of application with CV/ biodata, transcript of records and ID photo to:

PERSONNEL
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
2nd Floor, NB Santos Building
937 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City 1104

Alabang Supermarket

STORE PROMO AND MERCHANDISE DISPLAY ARTIST

Supermarket in need of artist to conceptualize and produce Seasonal Store theme designs and store promo signage materials. Attractive merchandise display setup and layout experience a plus factor.

Qualification:

- Must have actual hands-on experience in in-store mobile signages production and props setup for store seasonal themes.
- Talented artistically in new design creations and resourceful and ingenious in production of designs.
- Freelance contract status arrangement possible.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY W/ YOUR BIO DATA NBI & PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE AT THE LOBBY OFFICE BESIDE CUSTOMER SERVICE COUNTER OF THE SUPERMARKET MONDAY TO SATURDAY ONLY. BRING SAMPLE CREATIONS.

Contact: Belle Castro
ALABANG SUPERMARKET CORPORATION
Theater Drive corner commerce Ave., Alabang Town Center
Alabang Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City Tel No., 807-22 06

URGENTLY NEEDED
(1) PERSONNEL CLERK
(1) SECRETARY

- College graduate, Computer literate
- Proficient in written & oral communication

Apply at #9 Capricorn St., Carmel V, Subd., Banlat, T. Sora, Q.C. Tel. No. 930-4672/77

A LEADING MANUFACTURING COMPANY INVITES EXCEPTIONAL APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONAL AREAS / POSITIONS:

SALES

College graduate, preferably business or engineering course
2-5 years technical sales experience, or sales of consumer goods
With good communication and interpersonal skills
Hardworking, self-driven, flexible, not more than 28 years old

FINANCE

Must be a Certified Public Accountant
2-3 years finance related experience
Proficient in computer software applications
Trustworthy, resourceful, and attentive to details
Not more than 28 years old

HUMAN RESOURCES

Psychology, Industrial Engineering, or Behavioral Science graduate
5-7 years HR/Personnel experience in plant/manufacturing operations, with at least 3 years in managerial position
With recognized contributions in assigned HR/Personnel area/s
Strong interpersonal skills; good communication skills
28-33 years old

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

BS I.E. graduates
1-3 years focused experience in plant operations/business planning, or purchasing
Proficient in computer software applications
Analytical, well organized, and innovative
Not more than 28 years old

SECRETARY/OFFICE ASSISTANT

College graduate
2-5 years well-tracked secretarial experience to a senior executive
Excellent communication, computer, and interpersonal skills
Trustworthy and well organized
Not more than 28 years old

Attractive compensation package and career growth await successful applicants. Interested applicants should send their resumé with their transcript of records, and recent passport size photo to:

CV_RESUMÉ
P.O. Box No. 7410
Airmail Pasay Distribution Center

(Attach picture on the upper right hand corner of your resumé and indicate the position applied for on the upper left hand corner)

GLOBALBRANDS a corporation created through a majority foreign equity participation is involved in manufacturing, marketing, sales and distribution. Among the products that we carry are:

RUGBY K·SWISS W·B·N W.BROWN

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Must be a licensed Chemical, Mechanical or Industrial Engineer; minimum of 5 years experience in industrial/manufacturing setting, at least 3 years as a Production Manager; exposure in the coatings, paints, adhesives and sealants manufacturing is an advantage; knowledge in production machines, motors, filling machines and automation; good communication skills and labor relations; computer literate.

Work Base: Tanay

QUALITY CONTROL SUPERVISOR

Graduate of BS Chemistry or BS Chemical Engineering; minimum of 5 years experience in quality control works, 2 years of which is in a supervisory capacity; laboratory experience in related field is an advantage; good communication skills; computer literate.

Work Base: Tanay

Send your letter of application, comprehensive resume and 2x2 colored picture to:
GLOBAL BRANDS COMPANY, INC.
573 Gloria St., Marick Subd., Cainta, Rizal
E-mail: hrd-recruitment@globalbrands.com.ph Tel. No. (02) 655-0790 loc. 137

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Aptech Makati: 3/F Madison Bldg, Arnaiz Ave, Makati City: 813-4516 to 18

INVESTOR - TELEPHONE PROJECT
(Ticao, Masbate)

Looking for investor with P3.5M for the San Jacinto/San Fernando, Ticao, Masbate telephone landline business. (The company will be the PLDT in Ticao, Masbate) Investor should be hands-on manager of the business and preferably from Masbate or Sorsogon.

Business has a 3-4 year pay back period.

INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
Continental Telecom
(02) 728-3000 loc. 31
(0917) 530-9478

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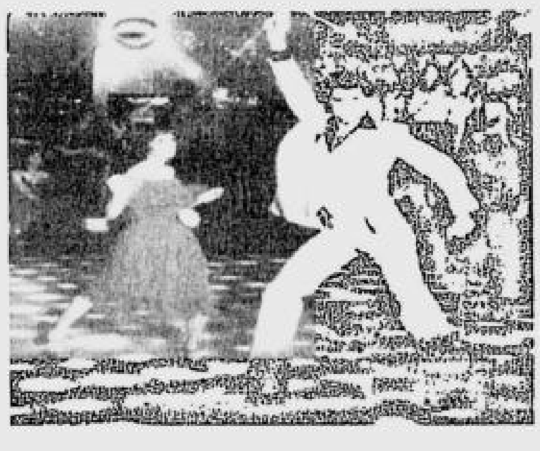
ambergris solutions - a leading, Philippine-based provider of inbound customer care solutions to blue-chip US-based clients

If you've got the moves then come groove with us through CALL CENTER FEVER!



POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

OPERATIONS MANAGER (Code: PDI-OM)

The candidate will be responsible for managing the customer service and call center departments involving all activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customers. He/She must have previous Inbound Sales and Customer Service Management experience

ASST. OPERATIONS MANAGER (Code: PDI-AOM)

The candidate will assist the Operations Manager in the above duties. He/She must have previous inbound sales experience & managed a group of supervisors / team leaders.

TEAM CAPTAINS FOR INBOUND SALES (Code: PDI-TCIS) & CUSTOMER SERVICE (Code: PDI-TCCS)

- ✓ 1 year previous supervisory experience a must

FRONT DESK ASSOCIATES (Code: PDI-FDA)

- ✓ Must have excellent English communication skills
- ✓ Previous reception work experience a must

INBOUND SALES CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES (Code: PDI-ISCIA)

- ✓ Must possess English communication skills
- ✓ Must be aggressive with pleasing personality
- ✓ Previous sales experience a must
- ✓ Telemarketing experience a plus

Mail your updated resume with picture (please indicate the code in the upper right hand corner) to:
ambergris solutions
31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or email your resume to: lisa.areglado@ambergrissolutions.com
Walk-ins accepted Mon-Fri between 9:30am-5:30pm. Be prepared for immediate interview.

INQUIRER

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing stories and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits news stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Our company is an international power generation firm. It has projects in advanced development, under construction or operating in most parts of the world. We offer compensation package that is competitive in the Energy industry.

Currently, we are looking for qualified candidates to assume the following positions:

Public Affairs Specialist

- College degree holder in communications or related field;
- At least five (5) to eight (8) years experience in Public Affairs and Corporate Communications;
- Proven ability to communicate effectively, both oral and written form;
- Must be a team player;
- Willing to work long hours;
- With good organizational skills;
- Can work in a multi-cultural environment;
- Good time management;
- Ability to do a multi-tasking job in a dynamic environment;
- Proficient in MS2000 Application particularly in Power Point.

Secretary

- College degree holder;
- Female, with pleasing personality;
- At least five (5) years experience in handling administrative work;
- Proven ability to communicate effectively, both oral and written form;

Successful candidate can look forward to a career growth supported by training and seminars.

Please send a comprehensive resumé detailing work experience and educational attainment to:
THE HRD Department
E-mail address: egenosa@intergen.com

Tanggol Kalikasan, Inc.
an NGO engaged in public interest environmental law nationwide, is in need of a

STAFF LAWYER

with the following attributes:

- Dedicated to serving the public interest and sectoral empowerment, especially communities endeavoring for sustainable development and participatory natural resource management
- Creative and committed to the pursuit of environmental justice
- Willing to travel extensively. Cooperative & can work well with a team.
- Relates well with sectoral communities such as upland/forest dwellers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, etc.
- Competent legal knowledge and skills. NGO experience an advantage.

Main tasks:

- Conduct paralegal training & other capacity-building activities for communities, NGOs, POs & local governments.
- Provide direct legal assistance to communities, NGOs & POs
- Advocate & campaign for improved environmental policy & decisions.

Compensation: Negotiable. Commensurate to skills & experience.

Submit letter of interest and resumé by **April 23, 2003.**
Room 403 CRM III Bldg., 106 Kamias Road, 1102 Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 4349141/4348714/9255611-12 Website: www.tanggol.org

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A new law office in the Ortigas Center is hiring five young

LAWYERS

If interested, send your resumé and transcript of grades to

P.O. Box No. 13522
Ortigas Center Post Office
1605 Pasig City

96.3 LITE WRocK
THE HEART OF LITE ROCK

Is looking for a dynamic

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

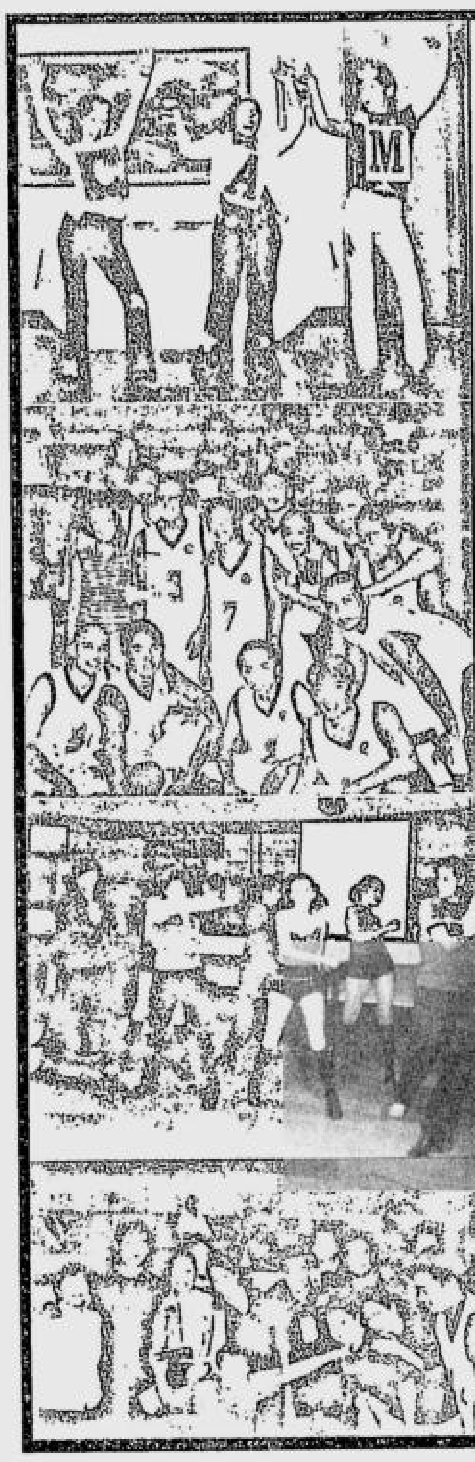
Requirements:

Description: Senior-level position in fast-paced, high-growth business

Position Warrants: Minimum 5 years experience, Bachelor's degree, ability to manage and motivate staff. With pleasing personality and good moral character. Graduate of reputable school at least 27-35 yrs old.

Duties & Deeds: Oversees all Human Resource programs and administration, manages staff with proficiencies in specialized areas (compensation, employee relations, recruitment, labor relations), advises senior management on trends, issues, and relevant topics an[illegible] ovides vision and leadership.

Please apply in person at:
6 Flr. King's Court Bldg. A
2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Tel. 8112151, 8112241, 8112343
Fax. 8112348



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Now hiring 1,000 customer service professionals.

500 TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

College graduate; must have IT experience, background, or proficiency

300 OUTBOUND & INBOUND SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Must have excellent communication skills; preferably with 3 months experience in sales via phone

200 CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATES

College graduate with excellent communication skills.

Call 9165680 for an immediate interview.

We entertain walk-in applicants on Mondays to Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm.

Human Resources Management Group
20th Floor, Citibank Square, Eastwood City
Cyberpark, Bagumbayan (Libis), QC, 1110
recruiting@etelecare.com
www.etelecare.com

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Wanted Immediately

EDITOR IN SCIENCE

- College graduate, major in Chemistry and/or Biology, preferably with master's degree
- Not below thirty-five years old
- With experience in textbook editing
- Preferably with teaching and writing experience
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- With leadership abilities

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN FILIPINO

- College graduate, (A.B., B.S.E., Mass Communications, Journalism)
- Can do copyreading in Filipino, Araling Panlipunan, Sibika at Kultura
- With good academic records
- 22-25 years old
- Editing experience is an advantage
- Good in oral and written communications
- Can be trained to assist in handling different subject areas

Please send letter of application with CV/biodata, transcript of records and ID photo to:

PERSONNEL
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
2nd Floor, NB Santos Building
937 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City 1104

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At SYKES, we're proud of the successful careers we've developed. We want to benefit your future with the opportunities we have to offer!

Are you dynamic, dependable, and driven by success? Do you enjoy using your creativity to solve problems? Do you like being rewarded for your achievements? If so, consider using your technical and interpersonal skills to work for a dynamic, successful, global company.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS – MORTGAGE AND FINANCE

- Graduate of Accounting, Finance, or similar Business courses *and/or* experience in the banking or finance or banking industry. Fluent in English, good business writing and course skills
- Proficient in MS Office and the internet
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules, including graveyard shift
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

ACCOUNT MANAGER – MORTGAGE AND FINANCE

- Graduate of Accounting, Finance, or similar Business courses *and/or* experience in the banking or finance or banking industry.
- Fluent in English, good business writing and course skills
- With at least 3 years related experience in the Call Center industry
- Experience in working with people on different levels, negotiation and diplomacy
- Experience in budget management and the ability to analyze statistical information processing software
- Effective business, proposal and report writing
- Must have analytical & problem solving skills and good customer service skills

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With at least 1 – 2 years work experience, an advantage
- With MCP, MCSE or MCSA certifications, an advantage
- Knowledgeable in SQL Servers, XML, DCOM, COM/COM+
- With excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifts

TEAM LEADS – MORTGAGE AND FINANCE

- Graduate of Accounting, Finance, or similar Business courses *and/or* experience in the banking or finance or banking industry. With at least one year relevant experience
- Fluent in English, good business writing and course skills
- Proficient in MS Office and the internet
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules, including graveyard shift

QUALITY COACHES – MORTGAGE AND FINANCE

- Graduate of Accounting, Finance, or similar Business courses *and/or* experience in the banking or finance or banking industry.
  Applicant must possess at least one of the aforementioned.
- With at least 6 months to 1 ½
- Fluent in English, good business writing and course skills
- Proficient in MS Office and the internet
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules, including graveyard shift

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are encouraged to send their updated CV's with a photocopy of their Transcript of Records to: SYKES ASIA, INC., 28F Robinson's Summit Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City or e-mail these to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com.

Visit http://www.sykes.com for more information about the Company.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HR OFFICER (HRO)

- -M/F, 24 to 30 years of age & should be of high moral standards.
- -Graduate of Behaviorial Science or any related course
- -Adept in all facets of personnel work.
- -Hands-on experience in training modules preparation & can conduct training programs.
- -Experience in restaurant chain is an advantage.
- -Aggressive & result-oriented, good communication & inter-personal skills.

Kindly forward your credentials to:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#918 BENAVIDEZ ST., BINONDO,
MANILA 1006

YIELD CO., LTD.,

A Japanese trading firm
located in Madrigal Business Park, Alabang
is in need of the following

SALES ENGINEER

female, 40 years old or below
preferably with experience in sales
will handle sales of industrial equipments

SERVICE ENGINEER

male, 30 years old or below
with computer skills, driving license,
and knowledge in industrial equipments

If interested, please send your comprehensive resumé with picture and application letter as an attachment to loi@yield.com.ph on or before April 21, 2003. Indicate "Applicant" in the subject box.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

The **ALBERGUS MANAGEMENT INC.** is a Foodservice Management Operator that specializes in Catering, Industrial Food Service Contracting and Food Manufacturing needs highly qualified applicants for the following positions:

CAFETERIA SUPERVISOR (Laguna Outlet)

- Graduate of HRA, HRM, Food Service Management, or any related course in a reputable school
- At least 2 years of Supervisory experience in Cafeteria operations
- Female, 26-35 years old
- Excellent written/oral communication skill
- Computer literate

HR/PERSONNEL MANAGER (QC OFFICE)

- Graduate of Behavioral Science or AB/BS Psychology, Industrial Relations
- At least 5 years of supervisory/managerial experience in HR preferably in Food Service Industry
- Female, between 35-40 years old
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills and computer literate

HR/PERSONNEL ASSISTANT (QC OFFICE)

- Graduate of Behavioral Science or AB/BS Psychology
- At least a year experience in HR; Female, between 25-28 years old
- Above average in oral and written communication skills
- Knowledgeable in office procedures

Interested applicants may also mail or submit their resumé at:

ALBERGUS MANAGEMENT, INC.
HR/Personnel Office
16-A Capitol Hills Road, Old Balara, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Numbers: 931-4852; 931-4854

International Rectifier (IR), a leading power management US based company is in search of a top caliber individual who will fill-up the position of a Quality Assurance Manager whose primary function is to design and manage the implementation a Quality System function to ensure strict compliance to IR's end customer requirements. Due to the nature of the business, the person will be required to travel domestic and international to resolve issues, conduct periodic audits and trainings to ensure the implementation of customer requirements.

Job Duties/Responsibilities

- Implementation of Process flow, FMEA and Control Plan requirements
- Manage the Specification System
- Support qualification of new Assy/Test Subcontractors
- Provide disposition on materials returned due to Quality issues
- Timely submission of 8D corrective action reports
- Implement Statistical Reliability Sampling tests

Qualifications

- Minimum ten (10) years relevant working experience in the Semiconductor Industry with 5 years in a managerial position.
- Hands-on experience in key Assy/Test processes (Die Bond, Wirebond, Mold, DTFS, Test, TnR), preferably in the Power Semiconductor field.
- Highly knowledgeable on international Quality Systems standards such as ISO9000, ISO14001, QS9000 and ISO/TS16949.
- Experience in Failure Analysis and Reliability screening tests.
- A practitioner of Problem Solving tools such as 8D Methodology, Potential Problem Analysis, Fault Tree Analysis, Failure Mode and Effects Analysis and Control Plans, OCAPS, Total Control Methodology and Total Quality Management.
- A user of Statistical Analysis tools such as JMP, Design Ease, Stats, etc.
- Knowledgeable in the use of computer softwares such as MS Office would be a plus factor.
- Excellent track record in his/her current employer.
- Strategist, highly motivated, dynamic, flexible, self-directed and independent.

Please e-mail comprehensive resumé with photo to: ygr@pacific.net.ph

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

JOB VACANCIES

MANILA CAMPUS

Position	Qualifications
Chair Marine Engineering Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree or with at least 15 units in Master's and with appropriate Professional License, with shipboard experience, preferably with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time
Chair Physical Education Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree required for at least bachelor's degree, preferable with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching experience and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Guidance Counselor	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree with Master's Degree in Psychology. Guidance and Counseling or any related field, with at least 1 year related work experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Professional Electrical Engineer	Licensed Professional Electrical Engineer, with at least 1 year related work experience, not more than 35 years old, full time
Faculty Members Architecture Accountancy Chemical Engineering Civil & Sanitary Engineering Computer Engineering Computer Science Electrical Engineering Electronics & Communications Engineering English Filipino Marine Engineering Marine Transportation Mathematics & Physics Mechanical Engineering Physical Education Social Sciences	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with required license, with Master's Degree along undergraduate studies & field of specialization, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time/ part time
Help Desk Coordinator	Holder of a computer related Bachelor's Degree, preferably with knowledge in basic troubleshooting of computers and printer, operating systems (MS DOS, Windows 95/98/ME/2000/XP, Linux), office suite (MS Office, Star Office, Open Office), at least one year related work experience, proficient in oral & written communication, of good moral character, willing to render long hours of work
Computer Laboratory Software Specialist	Holder of a computer related Bachelor's Degree, preferably with strong knowledge in operating systems, office suite, specialized in engineering software, network connection, IP addressing and other network protocols, at least one year related work experience, proficient in oral & written communication, of good moral character, willing to render long hours of work
Computer Laboratory Junior Technician	Holder of a computer related Bachelor's Degree or Vocational Course, preferably with strong knowledge in troubleshooting of computers and printer and basic electrical and electronics, with knowledge in operating system, office suite, specialized engineering software, network connection, IP addressing and other network protocols is an advantage, at least one year related work experience, proficient in oral & written communication, of good moral character, willing to render long hours of work.
Computer Custodian	Holder of a computer related Vocational Course, with strong knowledge in computer, of good moral character, willing to render long hours of work
Badminton Coach	Degree holder who specializes on the different fields of Sports, at least certified coach in Badminton, with at least 3 years related work experience, can design a training program for his team, proficient in oral & written communication, of good moral character

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may apply personally with their resume, ID picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at the:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
363 P.Casal St., Quiapo, Manila
Tel. 734-3631

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

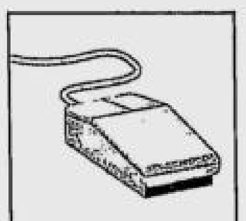
JOB VACANCIES

QUEZON CITY CAMPUS

Position	Qualifications
Head Office of Student Affairs	Holder of a Master's Degree in Psychology, Guidance and Counseling, Educational Management, Educational Planning or any other related field, with at least five (5) years satisfactory teaching experience in the tertiary level and at least three (3) years of satisfactory administrative or managerial experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Director Student Personnel Services	Holder of a Master's Degree, with adequate administrative and managerial competence in handling student matters, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Chair Physical Education	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree, preferably with at least three (3) years of satisfactory teaching experience and two (2) years of satisfactory managerial experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Guidance Counselor	Holder of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, Psychology or any related field, preferably with one (1) year related work experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Electrical Project Consultant / Supervisor	Graduate of BS Electrical Engineering, licensed Professional Electrical Engineer, with at least five (5) years related work experience, good written and oral communication skills, 30-35 years old
Faculty Members : Accountancy & Commerce Architecture Chemical Engineering Civil & Sanitary Engineering Computer Engineering Computer Science/IT/IM Electrical Engineering Electronics & Communications Engineering Industrial Engineering Marine Engineering Mechanical Engineering Mathematics & Physics Physical Education English Filipino Social Sciences	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with required license, with Master's Degree along undergraduate studies & field of specialization, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time/part time
Network In-Charge	Holder of any Computer related Bachelor's Degree, has experience in Network Structure and design for voice/data, knowledge and experience in implementing ASP model is an advantage, with technical documentation/web design skills, can operate and administer major networking operating system, can configure routers, knowledge and experience in check point administration, knowledge in wireless connection, with at least three (3) years related work experience, good written and oral communication skills
Training Assistant	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Guidance & Counseling, or any Behavioral Sciences, good oral and written communication skills, of good moral character, computer literate, single, female
Librarian	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science, with appropriate professional license, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Accounting Clerk	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, good oral and written communications skills, of good moral character, computer literate
ECE Laboratory Technician	Holder of a Bachelor's degree in ECE/EE, with at least (1) year related work experience, good in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Computer Custodian	Holder of a computer related vocational course, with strong knowledge in computer, of good moral character, willing to render long hours of work

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may inquire / apply with their resume, picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at the

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. 911-0140
tip hrd@yahoo.com



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VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS
EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA)
Announces vacancies for KING FAISAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE, RIYADH and JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

1. VIDEO EDITOR

Requirements:
- Associate Degree in Media Communications or related field
- At least 2 years of related experience

2. SAFETY OFFICER

Requirements:
- Bachelor of Science in safety/loss prevention risk control, occupational safety and health, or related/equivalent field required. Civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, and industrial engineering degrees can be considered.
- Minimum five (5) years of progressive career experience through the fire and safety service including three (3) years of related experience preferable in a hospital environment, and two (2) years in a supervisory capacity.
- Must have a valid driver's license, with good command of English in written and oral

3. ASSISTANT SAFETY OFFICER

Requirements:
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Safety/Loss Prevention, Occupational Safety and Health, Industrial Hygiene, Industrial Safety, Environment Safety or Associate Degree in related/ equivalent field
- One (1) year experience as safety/loss prevention or occupational health and safety in BSC holder or three (3) years of related field experience if with associate degree
- Must have a valid driver's license

4. FIRE FIGHTER I

- Associate Degree or equivalent in Fire Science or related discipline
- Three (3) years experience as Fire Fighter with ability to communicate in English both verbally and written
- Understanding of fire codes and standards locally and internationally, and must be physically fit for fire fighting duties
- Must have a valid driver's license

5. FIRE FIGHTER II

- High School Education required
- Two (2) years as Fire Fighter or Fire Inspector Officer
- Must have the ability to communicate in English
- Understanding of fire codes and standards locally and internationally
- Must have valid driver's license
- Must be physically fit for fire fighting duties

6. DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

- Associate Degree in Dental Technology from accredited institution with two (2) years minimum work experience in prosthodontics and crown and bridge work or
- High School graduate with specialized on-the-job training with minimum seven (7) years of experience in dentures and crowns and bridge work

7. RESPIRATORY TECHNICIAN

- Graduation from an accredited program for Respiratory Tech; Certification in Respiratory Care required; or B.S. Degree in Medical Technology; Must have two (2) years minimum experience

8. PHYSICAL THERAPIST

- B.S. Degree in Physical Therapy and must be a registered Therapist with minimum two (2) years experience

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS should personally submit a detailed resumé with job description, certificates of employment, diploma and transcript of records, board license/certificate, PRC card, 2 letters of reference from previous/current manager/supervisor, driver's license, No Objection Certificate if ex-Saudi and 1 pc 2x2 picture between 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM for the issuance of KFSH Application Form/Medical Questionnaire and Interview of POEA Officer to the:

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNMENT PLACEMENT BRANCH (WINDOW L)
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City and or at
POEA REGIONAL OFFICES

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION : 15 April 2003

"Mag-ingat sa Mga Illegal Recruiters"

NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED
BRING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for

Academic Year 2003

FELLOWSHIP
(with specific requirements)

I. Adult Cardiology

- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

II. Pediatric Cardiology

- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

III. Anesthesiology

- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer and/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

**Deadline for submission of application is on April 15, 2003*
**Academic Year 2003 starts on May 1, 2003*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163201735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to: oer@phc.gov.ph.

We are one of the leading partners in providing high-quality medical products and engineering services in the country. At the turn of the century, we vow to continuously develop and improve our capabilities to reach and serve more medical communities within and out of the country.

In lieu of our expansion, we are currently searching for high caliber individuals preferably residents of **Baguio, Ilocos, Pangasinan, La Union, Abra, Bicol, Cebu** and **Davao**, for the following positions:

1. Sales Consultant

- Male / Female, 23-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course from reputable schools
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Preferably with 3-5 years experience in sales and marketing particularly in Medical Industry

2. Regional Sales Manager

- Male / Female, 30-35 years of age, graduate of a four-year Business/Marketing course
- With vast experience in Sales and Marketing preferably in Medical Industry
- Self-motivated and hardworking, with good command of leadership
- Mobile and Flexible

3. Branch Manager

- Male / Female, 30-35 years of age, graduate of a four-year Business/Management course; preferably with MA degree in Marketing/Management
- With at least 5 years supervisory/managerial experience in Sales / Marketing and Operations
- With strong leadership and management skills
- People and service oriented, dedicated and hardworking

4. Bookkeeper

- Female, not more than 30 years of age, graduate of a four-year Accounting/Finance course
- With at least 2 years work-related experience
- Knowledgeable in Accounting functions such as preparation of accounts receivables/payables, filing of Accounting documents, vouchers and fixed assets
- Proficient with MS Windows applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resumé with contact telephone number/mobile number, recent 2x2 colored photo and Transcript of Records to:

Human Resources Department
Unit 604 Prestige Tower
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Elev8 Productions

is looking for a dynamic

1. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

2. MESSENGER

Apply in person and bring your resume' with 2X2 picture at 6th Flr. King's Court Bldg. 2
2129 Chino Roces Ave. Makati City

CompuFax CORPORATION
A SUBSIDIARY OF U-BIX CORPORATION

the largest distributor of Epson printers, scanners and multimedia projects, is searching for a qualified candidate to fill the position of

TECHNICAL SERVICE MANAGER

- Graduate of B.S. ECE/EE, preferably licensed
- With a least two years experience in managing operations of a service center
- With good working knowledge of computer operation, application and networking
- Excellent communication and leadership skills
- Male, not more than 35 years old

Competitive compensation, high commission and a rewarding professional career await successful candidates

Qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail their resume with photo to:
Ms. Armela Cruz
Recruitment and Training Group
U-BIX CORPORATION
1331 Angono St., Makati City
E-mail Address: hrd@ubix.com.ph
Previous applicants need not apply.

An International School in Jakarta is looking for trained teachers

- in early childhood education
- able to teach English, Math, Science etc. at elementary level
- Vice Principals

Please send by **25th April 2003**, your CV (with recent photograph) stating full particulars of teaching qualification, experience, interest and expected salary to :

Miss Nanda Bandara
c/o **Mrs. Corazon Legaspi**
12 Mola Street
Maria dela Paz Village
Makati, Metro Manila
Philippines
Email: nandabandara@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANT POSITIONS FOR THE DOE-UNDP PHI/01/G33 PROJECT

The Government, through the Department of Energy (DOE), will implement the **PHI/01/G33 "Capacity Building to Remove Barriers on Renewable Energy Development in the Philippines" (CBRED) Project** under the funding assistance of UNDP. It aims to formulate strategies and mechanisms that will support the development of renewable energy industry in the country. To initiate the implementation of the Project, DOE hereby announces the available vacant positions for the Project Management Office (PMO) which will be responsible for the day-to-day operation and financial management of the project, namely:

1. **Project Director, Project Management Office (PMO).** Responsible for the overall administration and management of the various activities under the Project. He/she must be capable of managing a staff of up to 6 professionals with multi-disciplinary capabilities in renewable energy technologies, financing, marketing and information. He/she will also coordinate multi-faceted assignments by local and international consultant to ensure their satisfactory completion. He/she will supervise the overall Project Monitoring and Evaluation activities. He/she will regularly meet with stakeholders from the public, the renewable energy industry, key government agencies and international donors to promote the interest of the Project. Minimum qualifications for the position are:
   - A university graduate of Business Administration, Economics or Engineering, preferably w/ Masters Degree.
   - At least 10 years proven track record in project management, preferably in the area of renewable energy;
   - With senior management reporting skills and excellent English communication skills (written and verbal);
   - Proven track record or experience in successful contract management;
   - Highly self-motivated, with good leadership skills; Capable of planning, initiating and managing multi-disciplinary activities within the context of a multi-donor international project; and,
   - With good appreciation of and strong links with the Philippines renewable energy sector.
2. **Policy, Institutional and Planning Specialist.** Responsible for the policy/technical requirements of the Project. He/she will provide technical support in the implementation, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and documentation of various activities under the following project components, namely: (1) NRE Policy, Planning and Institutional Capacity Building (Component 1); (2) NRE Market Services Institutionalization (Component 2); and, (3) NRE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms (Component 4). Minimum qualifications for the position are:
   - A university degree in a social science discipline preferably in Economics, Public Administration, or Banking & Finance.
   - Proven track record in project management such as in the timely submission of acceptable deliverables, etc.;
   - Minimum 5 years experience in RE technology development, energy policymaking and planning, project financing mechanisms, and renewable energy business planning;
   - With satisfactory skills in the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and MS Project, among others; and
   - Good interpersonal and communication skills.
3. **Information, Promotion, and Technology Support Specialist.** Responsible for the formulation of information packages, promotion and other technical components of the Project. He/she will coordinate logistics, monitor the conduct of the activities according to specified/agreed timetable, evaluate the outputs and outcomes of the activities, and provide recommendations to address activity-level implementation of the project. He/she will handle the following components, namely: (1) NRE Information and Promotion Services (Component 3); (2) NRE Training Program (Component 5); and, (3) NRE Technology Support Program (Component 6). Minimum qualifications for the positions are:
   - A university degree in science or engineering;
   - Proven track record in project management such as in the timely submission of acceptable deliverables, etc.;
   - Working knowledge and background in the Philippines RE industry;
   - Proven track record of experience with training programs;
   - At least 5 years experience in technology assessment, database management, IT management, marketing, and technical training development;
   - Satisfactory skills in the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and MS Project, among others; and
   - Good interpersonal and communication skills.
4. **Finance Officer.** Responsible for the accurate and appropriate recording of disbursements of Project funds; maintenance of required set of books in conformity with UNDP accounting procedures, classification and summary of financial transactions of the project and the generation of required financial reports. He/she will report directly to the Project PMO Director the financial management of the Project. He/she will also provide necessary technical inputs in the design of the various financing mechanisms that will be a component of the Project. Also, he/she must have experience in preparing and updating books of accounts such as subsidiary ledgers and special registers, among others. Minimum qualifications for the position are:
   - A University degree in Accounting and/or Finance and a Certified Public Accountant;
   - One to three years experience in general accounting, financial monitoring and reporting and other related accounting tasks in a non-profit organization or donor institutions;
   - Working knowledge of integrated and/or specific accounting applications. (e.g. general ledger, accounts payable, financial reporting, etc.); and,
   - With satisfactory skills in the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and MS Project.
5. **Administrative Assistant.** Responsible in providing efficient administrative support to the Project. Prepare and consolidate the travel plan, and procurement plan for the project. She will also be responsible in the procurement requirements of the project, in accordance with UNDP guidelines. Minimum qualifications for the position are:
   - A University degree in management;
   - At least two years experience as staff in any developmental project;
   - Knowledgeable in modern office administration specifically in management of office documents and papers;
   - Knowledgeable of inventory control and procurement procedures; and,
   - With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word and MS Excel.

The initial duration for the services of the said PMO Personnel shall be one (1) year. The same is a fixed-term appointment but may be extended based on performance. The CBRED Project offers equal employment opportunity for Filipino professionals. Interested parties may submit their application with corresponding Curriculum Vitae to the address below:

MS. TERESITA M. BORRA
Project Director, PHI/01/G33 CBRED Project and
Director, Energy Utilization and Management Bureau
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig, Metro Manila

Deadline for submission will be on 21 April 2003. For particulars, please call Mr. Ramon D. Cabazor and Ms. Ma. Teresa J. Daniels at Telephone Nos. 840-1817, 840-1401 to 40 loc. 245 & 337 and Ms. Maria Teresa C. Lizo at loc. 268.

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- Must be able to work independently.

Senior Architects
- 15 years experience in large-scale projects.
- Strong technical background and should be able to lead a technical production team.
- Strong leadership and communication skills.
- AutoCAD and Microstation literate.

Senior Architectural and Interior Designers
- At least 15 years experience in preparing conceptual architectural or interior designs.
- Strong presentation and visualization skills.
- Should be able to lead the office design group.

Intermediate Architects
- Architects or Architectural Assistants with at least 5 years experience.
- Excellent design and detail design skills essential.
- AutoCAD and Microstation literate.

Computer Visualizers
- Proficient in the latest computer visualization softwares.
- Strong graphic design skills. Should be able to produce high quality design
- packages.
- Should have the initiative to constantly manage and improve office visualization capabilities.

Office and Human Resources Manager
- 10 years experience in office and HR management, preferably with an architectural office.
- Self motivated and result oriented.
- Background in accounting and financial management.
- Mature, organized and hardworking and should possess strong leadership skills.

Senior Secretaries
- 5 years working experience in an architectural firm or design practice.
- College graduate with formal secretarial training.
- Good written & spoken English. Basic computer skills include MS Word English, Excel, Powerpoint, Internet etc. Good communication skill.
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Aedas Philippines
P.O. Box: MK-119
c/o Classified Ads Department
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Ground Floor, Atrium of Makati,
Makati Avenue, Makati City

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- Male, between 30 – 40 years old
- Preferably a Licensed Mechanical Engineer with good scholastic records from a reputable school
- With extensive working experience in building operations, maintenance and management
- Preferably a resident of Pampanga or nearby places
- Computer literate

Interested parties are requested to personally submit or mail their application letter, comprehensive resume, recent 2"x2" photo, transcript of records & other pertinent credentials to:

THE HR MANAGER
Human Resource Department
Carworld Bldg San Fernando-Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando (Pampanga)
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How to survive your next performance appraisal

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My boss just told me that I've got a performance appraisal coming up next month. I'm not on the best of terms with my boss, so I'm pretty nervous. How can I be sure I get treated fairly?
Walking On Egg Shells

The business world is divided into two groups—owners and temps. Owners are the ones who make the rules; temps are the ones who have to follow 'em. And unfortunately, one of the rules that owners make is that every temp must be evaluated annually. (If it's any consolation, owners get their evaluations too; they're just called something else: bank loan reviews, yearend reports, stock prices...)

Actually, performance appraisals can be worthwhile: they can give you constructive feedback that will help you grow. But for that to happen—and for you to get treated fairly—the evaluation process must be fair. To make sure yours is, ask the following questions. I've adapted them from "Modern Personnel Checklists" (Warren, Gorham and Lamonte), that bible of all things personnel.

Is your boss using clearly defined standards to evaluate you? Most companies require performance standards that are clear and measurable so that employees aren't subjected solely to their bosses' subjectivity. Before your evaluation, ask (as pleasantly as possible) by what standards you'll be evaluated. "Modern Personnel Checklists" recommends that your supervisor provide you a blank copy of the performance review form at least a week before your review.

Has your performance been adequately observed? Some bosses observe subordinates on a daily basis; others could barely pick them out of a police line-up. Inquire (gently) as to how and how much you were observed.

Will the evaluation be limited to things that have happened since your last appraisal? It should be. "Double jeopardy" may work on the game show but it's a losing proposition in the office. Most human resource professionals agree that your boss can't try you twice for the same "crime."

Once the appraisal happens, ask yourself these two additional questions:

Was too much time spent on a few uncharacteristic actions? Everyone has a bad day. The bulk of your appraisal should focus on your "typical" performance.

Were you rated fairly across the board? Some evaluators give uniform ratings—all good, all bad, all mediocre—to every aspect of an employee's performance, as if they couldn't take the time to see how the person performed in different aspects of her job. If you think you've been judged unfairly in certain areas, develop a case supporting your performance and take it to the HR department. Give them objective measures of your performance—the quantity produced, the timelines met, the comments you received when the work was turned in, etc. —so they have something other than your boss's subjective appraisal to go on.

You know, performance appraisals are a lot like heading for the coffee pot the morning after a party. The route is a minefield, but if you step carefully, you can claim the reward. I think if you follow this advice and walk carefully across those egg shells, you'll avoid getting scrambled by the process.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@ working wounded.com.*)*

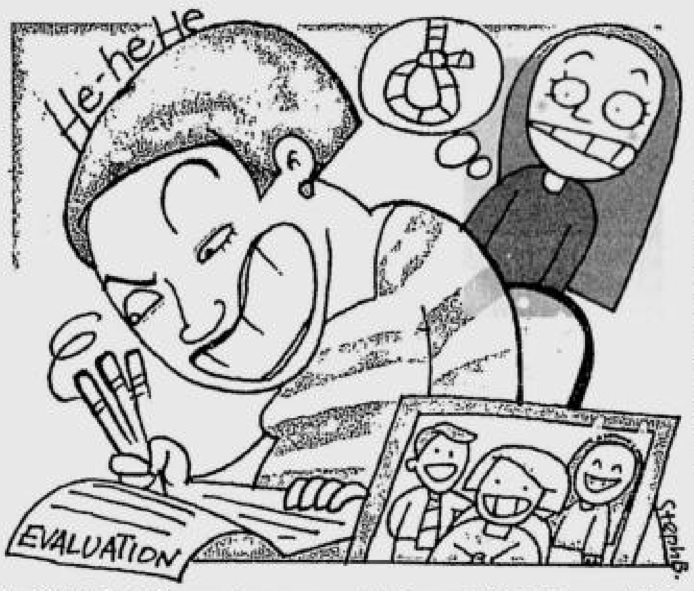


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Cruel workmates make life hell for newcomer

By GiGi

POSTCARDS *from the* CORPORATE EDGE

WHILE still finishing my course in the university, I was eager to start earning my keep. I envied my classmates who conducted entrance exams to applicants in the high school department of the university during the summer break for a fee. When the school year started, they would flaunt the items they bought with their extra money and say that these were "*katas ng* summer job." How I wished that I also had extra spending money to use as I pleased.

So, after graduation, I grabbed the first job offer I got. I did not know that this hasty decision would have adverse effects on my life. I thought it was a step towards a new, exciting world. But I was in for a lot of unpleasant surprises.

First-day woes

On my first day of work in my first job, I was excited to report for work. I wore a becoming navy suit that my big brother gave me as a graduation gift. I also had on a pearl choker from my mother. But when I entered the office, I felt that all eyes were on me and I heard people whispering and saw a few raised eyebrows. My confidence ebbed.

In the coming days, I became the *dakilang utusan ng bayan* because I was the newest face in the department. I made coffee and refreshments although my job description did not include these tasks. When something needed to be photocopied, it became my job. Imaginary fingers also pointed to me when the boss needed to have her personal stuff done like making deposits to the bank, buying her lunch and *merienda* or even buying the materials for her daughter's art projects in school.

Grapevine blues

People labeled me "*sipsip*" to the boss just because I did her personal errands willingly and without complaint. I cried rivers of tears in my rage. Much as I wanted to confront them, being *bagong salta*, I felt I should not do so. I was really in the dark on how to conduct myself properly. Do I have the right to refuse to obey my boss? Do I obey but show my displeasure just so my officemates will not accuse me of trying to win the boss' favor? I wallowed in self-pity. You see, since I have a degree and a good academic record, I was not expecting to do such jobs like serving coffee and operating the photocopier. Why, these tasks do not need a university education.

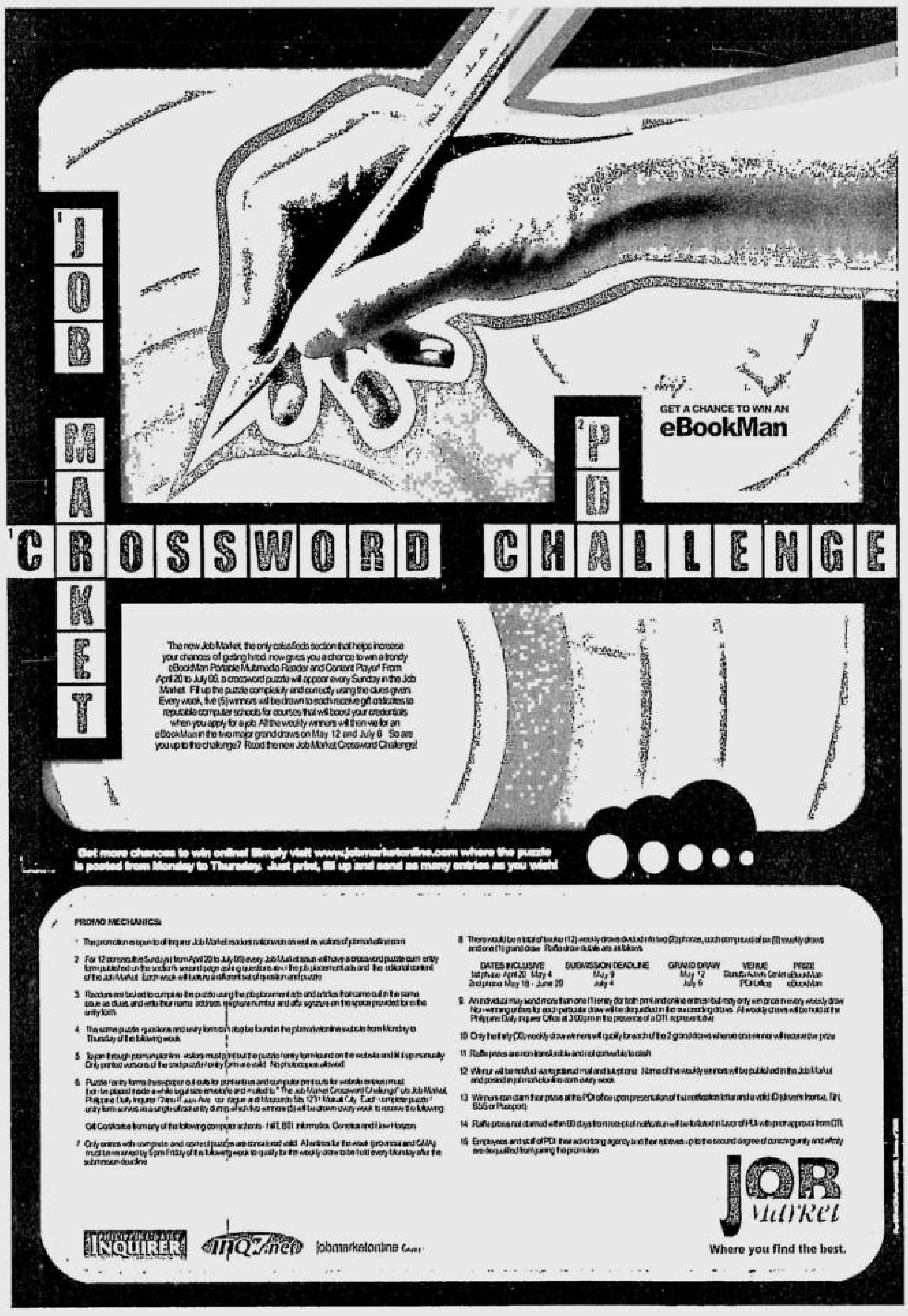
Since my officemates made me feel unwelcome, I unconsciously isolated myself from them. Perhaps, my boss noticed I was often alone during meal times so on one occasion, she invited me to join her group in their *merienda* break until this became a regular practice. At first, I wanted to refuse her invitation but I was afraid that I would appear too timid. The rumor mill gave this situation a different twist. Since my boss' group is composed of three managers from other departments, I got tagged as somebody who associates only with bosses and don't give my fellow rank-and-file the time of day. I became the "flavor of the month" in the grapevine.

Promise

It hurts like crazy to be the subject of all these nasty talks when all I want is to earn a living. I often want to just go back to school and enjoy my life with a meager allowance. I am amazed at how cruel the workplace can be. This experience was quite traumatic for me.

Because of this negative experience, I vowed to never inflict this kind of pain to anyone, especially the newcomers in a company. I will make sure that they will feel most welcome and be comfortable to just be themselves. I will also advise them not to pay attention to the narrow-minded lot who probably don't have better things to do with their lives and instead thrive on making the lives of others miserable.

(PaW is interested in your work life. Email your contributions to Postcards from the Corporate Edge, which is published once a month to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.*)*



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Republic of the Philippines
Davao Oriental State College
of Science and Technology
Mati, Davao Oriental

EXTENSION DEADLINE FOR THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE DOSCST SEARCH FOR THE PRESIDENCY AS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

The Board of Trustees of the **Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology (DOSCST)** formally and publicly announces that the **Search for the Presidency of DOSCST is still open until April 15, 2003.** Interested applicants are invited to send their formal applications to the **Honorable Chair of the DOSCST Search Committee for the Presidency, CHED Commissioner CARLITO S. PUNO,** c/o:

REV. BENONI E. HERNANDEZ
Secretariat Chair
CHED Central Office
5/F DAP Building,
San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(for Luzon applicants)

PROF. GENELYN C. LIM
Board Secretary
DOSCST
Mati, Davao Oriental
(for Visayas and Mindanao applicants)

Minimum Qualifications:
- must not be over 55 years of age
- must be a natural-born Filipino citizen
- preferably doctorate degree holder (non-master's degree holders need not apply)
- must have relevant administrative experience
- must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals, and objectives of DOSCST
- must have no pending administrative or criminal case

Application Requirements:
- 6 sets Comprehensive Resumé with authenticated support documents and 6 pieces 2 x 2 colored ID pictures
- 6 sets Comprehensive Vision/Mission Proposal for DOSCST
- Psychiatric/Neurological Examination Results from:
  - ➢ Philippine General Hospital (for Luzon applicants)
  - ➢ a government hospital (for Visayas applicants)
  - ➢ Davao Medical Center (for Mindanao applicants)
- NBI Clearance
- Ombudsman and *Sandigang Bayan* Clearances (for government employees)

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- **OFFICE / COST ENGINEERS** — Licensed Civil Engineer, computer literate, with at least 3 yrs. of extensive actual work experience in materials control, survey, costs & estimates and bill of quantities in horizontal and/or vertical construction.
- **ACCOUNTANTS / BOOKKEEPERS** — Preferably CPA, must be computer literate, with at least 3 yrs. of actual work experience in Accounting works.
- **BUILDING SUPERINTENDENTS** — Licensed Civil Engr. with at least 10 yrs. of actual work experience in high rise building construction.
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- **FIELD ENGINEERS** — Licensed Civil Engr. with at least 5 yrs. of actual work experience in high rise building construction, specially in structural concreting works. Preferably with knowledge in formwork system.
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- **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS** — Graduate of a 4-yr. business or behavioral science course, computer literate and good in oral & written communication with at least 3 yrs. of actual work experience in the construction industry.
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Personnel Administration
P.O. Box 195 AAVA Commercial Center
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Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
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The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking application from competent candidates to fill the post of a National Professional Project Personnel (NPPP) for Operations Research & Monitoring and Evaluation (OPME).

Duties and Responsibilities: Under the overall supervision of the UNFPA Representative, the NPPP will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- As a focal person for monitoring and evaluation and research, provides assistance to the Reproductive Health (RH), Advocacy and Population & Development Strategies (PDS) sub-programme component projects as follows:
  - Provides technical assistance and guidance to all executing and implementing agencies of the 5th Country Programme (CP) in the area of operational researches, monitoring and evaluation;
  - Prepares consolidated reports on Operations Research activities of the 5th CP, while identifying bottlenecks and recommendations for improving programme/project operations;
  - Develops a design for operations research for RH, Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) and Advocacy at the national, regional and component provincial & NGO projects;
  - Facilitates and assists in the development of the Operations Research Agenda for the 5th CP;
  - Leads the implementation and execution of the operations research and monitoring and evaluation framework of the 5th CP;
  - Develops and implements mechanisms for scientific validation of project/programme reports and experiences of the 5th CP.
- As a Technical Adviser, operationalizes and improves the monitoring and evaluation component of the 5th CP and its component projects:
  - Enhances existing monitoring tools and checklists developed for the RH, ARH, and Advocacy programmes/projects;
  - Enhances and finalizes the tools, in consultation with the RH, ARH and Advocacy programme advisors, staff and partners, and leads the conduct of the RH Quality of Care studies and the Advocacy Programme and validation studies;
  - Facilitates and manages meetings, consultations and workshops pertaining to the operations research and monitoring and evaluation component of the 5th CP. Furthermore, he/she shall ensure maintenance of Results-Based Management (RBM) adaptation of partners and accountability at all programming levels through the use of the logframe as a monitoring and evaluation tool.
- As the Adviser for Research and Monitoring and Evaluation, focuses on developing ways on sustaining 5th CP initiatives through the formulation of effective ways on local partner ownership and cooperative linkages with local and national partners.
- Reviews, monitors, evaluates and provides technical assistance to projects/programmes at national and provincial levels, to ensure their compliance with UNFPA policies and requirements;
  - Undertakes project monitoring activities like meetings and field visits and prepares monitoring reports which shall identify bottlenecks and recommends ways for improvement of project operations;
  - Reviews correspondence and other documents and takes routine follow-up actions in consultation and coordination with other programme advisers and partners, and drafts a variety of routine materials such as letters and memoranda;
  - Reviews sub-programme/project reports and outputs and provides necessary guidance to ensure compliance with project requirements for monitoring and evaluation;
- Performs other programme-related duties as may be required.

Qualifications and attributes: Minimum academic degree: masters degree in social sciences, preferably in research and monitoring/evaluation. Five years or more of relevant demonstrated professional experience in project development and management in the field of operations research and monitoring/evaluation. Should have excellent communications, analytical, facilitating and interpersonal skills and willing to travel in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Salary: Negotiable, based on experience and qualifications.
Note: Only short-listed applicants will be notified.
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HR exec faces merger challenges

By Rochelle Leonor

HR Focus

GO YANKO PHOTO BY JESS YUSON

WHILE others may see mergers in a negative light, Amelia Go Yanko sees it more positively. In fact, she thinks a merger is like a marriage, two entities uniting to face a bright future. "When the global merger of Hewlett Packard and Compaq was announced, I told my people that it's like a prelude to marriage—an engagement. The whole world was told that the two would be wed," she smiles. However, in the Philippines, the actual 'wedding' only happened last March 2003.

New challenge

Go Yanko is the country HR manager for the new HP. She had been working for Compaq for barely two months when the announcement of the merger was made in 2001. After being named country HR manager for the new HP, the challenge was to learn what HP is. This makes her job interesting. Since HP continues to reinvent itself, the challenge lies with keeping up with the times.

And in the tradition of any engagement, many projects were implemented all at the same time to prepare for the actual 'marriage.' One of the immediate plans was to set and establish a new culture. Go Yanko explains that it was not a matter of adapting HP's or Compaq's culture. "We observed the best practices of each company that are closer to the vision of the new HP. Then, we adapted these practices," she explains. She further adds that regardless of the many countries HP operates in, the company wants only one culture to prevail.

Changes

The people of HP and Compaq also had to adjust to changes. Go Yanko explains that way before the merger was finalized, the people had prepared themselves for the new HP. Heads of the business groups were named. Compensations and benefits were reviewed. Guidelines were set. Suggestions were aired on how the organization can move forward. "Once the merger was formalized, we were ready as could be," she beams.

Prior to the merger, Hewlett Packard Company or HP was a global provider of computing and imaging solutions and services. Go Yanko explains that HP is not just about printers and scanners. "HP provides customer support and consulting services to our clients—the less tangible side of the business," she says. On the other hand, Compaq Computer Corporation or Compaq was a global provider of enterprise technology and solutions. It designs, develops, manufactures and markets hardware, software, etc.

Largest vendor

In 2001, HP and Compaq announced the merger in 2001, forming the largest vendor in the server industry and creating a company of 160 operations worldwide. Still known as HP, the merger makes the company the leading provider of computing and imaging solutions and services. It boasts of the most complete set of IT products and services for consumers and businesses, and employs over 145,000 employees.

Communication

While changes are happening fast, she knows that she has to take time to talk to her people. "The traditional expectations of people in HR remain. They would still like to talk to their HR manager and find time to share their feelings," Go Yanko says. She admits that while her job keeps her on her toes, it can also get extremely pressured at times. "I'm close to going crazy," she jokes.

But Go Yanko is not the type to cower in the face of a great challenge. Having worked for big local corporations, she is used to fast-changing environments. She also doesn't sit on her laurels. She says she doesn't stop learning. "There are a lot of opportunities for learning since HR is continuously evolving," she explains.

True enough, when asked what she thinks her biggest contribution is to HP so far, she refused to give only one. "There are many things to be done that I can't pinpoint which has the most value."

But the the people of HP certainly know what she did for the 'engagement' and the 'marriage' of their new company.

How to move...

(From page I12)

now call vision defines your life destination. Your passion will drive you to your vision. Once you have set your vision, set milestones and guideposts to tell you how far and how near you are in your journey. An example of setting milestones is as follows: If my vision were to own a chain of drugstore in 10 years, I can set my milestones, to be as follows. First, I will find a job as pharmacist in a large drugstore. After about three to five years, I will take a business course, and if possible, an MBA degree. Then, I will open up my first drugstore and by year 10, I will have 10 branches. As I go along, I can always re-evaluate my vision. But the important thing is I know what I want to be.

3. Having now a dream, follow your dream. Just do it.

Now that you know your destination, plunge into it. Heed your heart. A wise man said: "If I am going to be, it will be up to me." Trust your guts. Take the first steps and embark on your journey. Just do it. As you travel, light your path by these important lessons:

- Focus on your visions. Do not be sidetracked by adversities. Take heart. Walk by faith and not by sight.
- Open yourself to other paths to reach your destination. Be flexible. No job is beneath your dignity. Starting at the bottom is not humiliating. It is about humility–an acceptance of what you need to learn along the way.
- Celebrate small victories. Success comes in small dosages. Pat yourself on the back for each milestone you conquer.
- And when you fall, get up. Falling is not failure. It is failing to get up when you fall that spells failure. Success comes from a lot of lessons learned from failure. As the saying goes, it is better to try and fail than not to have tried at all.
- Don't lose your soul in your journey. Where you are going and how you will get there are equally important. Your destination gives you direction. How you conduct yourself in your journey defines your character. The end does not justify the means. Do not be a rat in the rat race of life. Your journey and its vicissitudes should mold you into a man of character and principles.
- Make an impact on the world. Make a difference. No man is an island. Whatever you do affects others, your family, your country, the world. You will pass into this world but once. Leave a lasting imprint. Do something that can have an impact on the lives of family, your fellowmen and our society. Freedom exacts more responsibilities than what it gives. Walk in the shadow of God who gave you life and honor. When the time comes, be ready to account to God what you did with the talents, abilities, and gifts that He gave you.

Life is short. It is my ardent hope that my life's lessons shall make your journey meaningful. May your quest for your visions lead us to a better world.

(This is a shortened version of a speech given by Mr. Pascual during the commencement exercises of Centro Escolar University.)

INQUIRER
JOB
Market
WORKFORCE
Cla

The Philippine Daily Inquirer Job Market has inked up a media exchange deal with People In Jobs, Inc. and Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc. the producers of the show WORKFORCE last Friday, April 11, 2003.

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the parties took place at the PDI office. Present at the signing were Asst. Vice President for Marketing and Classified Advertising, Mr. Donald Patrick L. Lim and Ms. Tita Datu-Puangco, showhost, President/CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc. and People In Jobs, Inc. Ms. Cory Flores of Workforce and Cris Vida, a Marketing Assistant of PDI were there to witness the affair which was capped by a photo-taking.

The team-up hopes to bring to the public further awareness about the job market by addressing its issues and challenges as the country gears towards global competitiveness.

Together they will try to shed light about what the market needs to be able to cater to the demands of the Filipino work force.

WORKFORCE is a thirty-minute program over RPN Ch.9. Shows every Sundays from 2:00-2:30 pm. The show is trying to spearhead a campaign which seeks to help create a Filipino work force by showcasing the following:

HOTJOBS : features interview portion which discusses the most-in-demand jobs in the market

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- Excellent networking, electronic communication skills including email, mailing lists, online conferences
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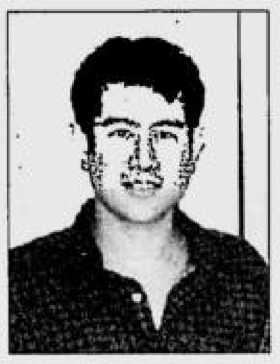

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

LIFE 101

How to move forward in life after graduation

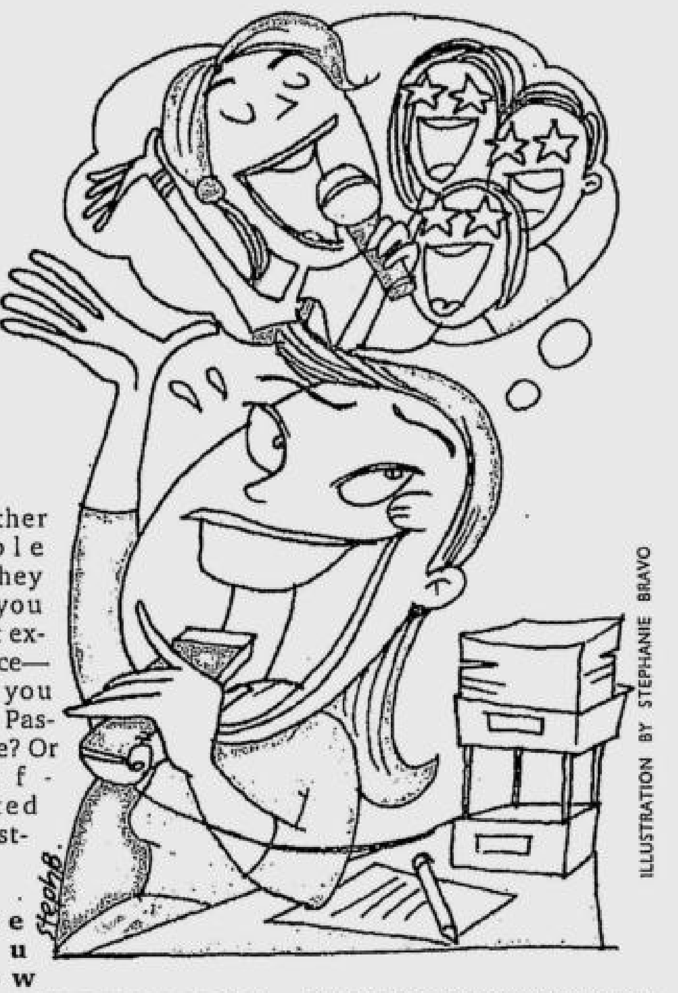

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

By Dr. Abraham F. Pascual
Chairman & CEO, Pascual Laboratories, Inc.

I MUST confess that when I graduated from college, I already knew what I would be doing because from age five, my father brainwashed me on what I will be. I would become a Doctor of Philosophy Major in Chemistry. My career was all set from the time I was born. Parents were like that in those days. They set their children's careers. Luckily for me, I liked the path they chose and took it.

PASCUAL

But still, in hindsight at age 59, I am convinced that my life today would have been doubly fulfilling and more meaningful had I learned some lessons before I plunged into the big "university of life." If only I could reconfigure my journey, I would have followed these paths:

1. Discover your passion.

The passion of Mother Teresa is to serve God by serving the poorest of the poor. She served with such passion she didn't care even for her own health and safety. To her, her mission in life is to bring God's love and comfort to the poorest of the poor. Ninoy Aquino had a passion for serving his country even if it meant sacrificing his life. He could have stayed in the US and led a very comfortable life growing old and playing with his grandchildren. I wonder what would have become of our country if Ninoy did not come home.

What is your passion? Passion is what makes you come alive and makes you good at what you like doing. Passion excites you. It sometimes makes you angry. Passion drives you to overcome adversities. Passion makes you strong-willed, earnest, adventurous and daring just like our ancestors who had the courage to be pioneers, to brave the seas, to clear the forests and erect towns and cities upon the wilderness.

How do you discover your passion?

By listening to your soul. By discerning the promptings of your inner self and the beatings of your heart. If you listen hard enough, your soul will dictate your calling. Have you ever caught yourself talking to yourself? That's talking to your soul. Some people may think talking to oneself is crazy. But I tell you, it is healthy and good for your soul. Better still, let your soul talk to God. Sooner or later, you will develop a relationship with Him and He will guide you to the right path in life.

Establish what makes you passionate. Explore varied experiences. It may mean taking on different jobs or diverse professions. Then ask yourself: Did you enjoy the experience? Are you passionate about it? Ask other people how they saw you in that experience—were you good? Passionate? Or half-hearted and listless?

2 Once you know what makes you passionate, concretize that into a vision. In other words, dream. A vision is like a dream. Visualize the unlimited possibilities of what you can be. For instance, you can dream about being an entrepreneur. You can dream about owning a drugstore. You can dream about becoming an executive in a pharmaceutical company. You can dream about setting up a medical technology lab or going abroad. You can even dream about being a movie star or a singer.

Your dream or what we

HOWTOMOVE/pI10

MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

Creativity gets 'average' graduate a job

By Regina Galang Reyes

DEFINITELY, graduates with not-so-good grades outnumber graduates with honors. With a mass of new graduates flooding the job market this summer, the job seeker really has to think hard on how to get his desired job. The last two articles on opportunities for the academically challenged spurred this feedback from a reader who shares his own experience in landing a good job.

Feedback

"I followed your last two articles from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 'Attitude, not aptitude' and 'Opportunities for the academically challenged.' I must say, that these articles are so true. I'm an academically challenged person, and yes, I have had my share of red marks on my course cards during college. That's because I hated going by the book and being constrained by the system. I wanted to think 'out-of-the-box' and this resulted in the unsatisfactory responses from my colleagues and professors.

"Despite my questionable marks in school, I was known for being someone who wasn't afraid to take responsibility and take a more active role in group projects. I explored different solutions and read a lot of books that range from the fictional novels to the business oriented ones. I absorbed a lot of information that made me well rounded and not be limited to my field of study.

"To cut the story short, I was contacted by a headhunter from a multi-national semiconductor company and was immediately called for an interview for an engineering position. During my interview, they asked practical questions on situations that you face everyday like 'what would you do if...' and my creativity, not my academic knowledge in answering the questions, satisfied and impressed the panel. The next day, they called and informed me that I got the job even if I was still a month from finishing my last term in school. The work is challenging, but the pay is good, considering that I'm at an entry-level position.

"I'm aware that there are still companies that look at grades for basis of job qualification, but there are many more companies that are non-discriminating and look at attitude, not aptitude, which levels the playing field.

"Why am I saying all this? It's not because I want to brag, but because I want to encourage a lot of students out there who are overshadowed by dean's listers, cum laudes, and honorable mentions, that it's not your academic status in school that makes you a sure shot; it's the application, creativity, and passion that increase your value and selling points. Failing is not the criteria; it's how you rise from failure that counts. My experience just goes to show that it's how you think and not what you think that gets you the job."

I am sure that the story of this reader will inspire all those graduates out there who are at a loss on how to get a good start in the work world. But hey, this should not serve as an excuse for students not to study hard while at school. This reader's experience also shows the disparity between what is learned in school and what is required in the workplace.

What's inside

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CLASS CARD
GRADES
3.0
TRANSCRIPT

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Integration

I have hired many new graduates and honestly, without downgrading their capabilities, it really takes at least six months before they learn the corporate ropes and get fully integrated into the workplace. The managers and supervisors have to exercise a lot of patience to train the new hires in the ways of the work world. If the new hire has a good attitude, then this makes the task so much easier. If not, trying to get them to unlearn bad habits and attitudes can make the training period quite a difficult time for both the boss and the new hire. In this situation, the creativity and resourcefulness of the new employee make a difference in his career success. I think early on, educational institutions should encourage students— and teachers—to continuously think out of the box. It is only through innovative ideas that we can all get out of the quagmire of economic woes—on the individual, company and national level—that we are facing today.

(Email feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph. For more career advice, *tune in every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. to DZRH on your AM dial for "People at Work sa DZRH" hosted by the author, Reggie Reyes, former DOLE secretary Atty. Benny Laguesma and broadcasters Ruth Abao Espinosa and Andy Verde.)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

The redeemer and the rebel

By Teresa R. Tunay

IF you had been among the crowd at the trial of Jesus, whom would you have elected to release, Jesus or Barabbas? Would you have preferred to condemn the criminal or the Christ? And even though you believed you'd rather release the Redeemer instead of the rebel, would you have had the nerve to go against that rabid crowd clamoring for Jesus' head?

It may not be that readily recognizable, but the fact is, the culture at the workplace is largely determined by the choices each individual worker makes from day to day. Where we work, Barabbas and Jesus need not be persons. Barabbas could represent the "*bara-bara* mentality" (pardon the pun) prevalent in uninspired workplaces. It's the mindset that excuses substandard performance, indifference, sloth, and a host of other practices and vices big or small that damage productivity.

On the other hand, Jesus could symbolize excellence at one's occupation—and the attitude that allows one to brave the sacrifices, the discipline and the will it takes to achieve.

The fascinating thing about this is we all have Barabbas and Jesus within each of us. We can go *bara-bara* or we can aim for excellence. But before we can dare cry "Kill Barabbas, release Jesus!" in a crowd that screams "To hell with Jesus; Barabbas is more fun!" we must first of all be convinced that deep inside of us it is truly Jesus whom we want to see alive. Courage before the world radiates from conviction in the heart.

(Email the author at avemaria@csl.com.ph*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel Mark 14: 11-15; 47

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

A different crowd

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN doing his job, Pilate had to make the difficult choice whether to uphold the truth and defend an innocent man, or to give in to the pressure of the crowd, instigated by false and ambitious leaders, which demanded the death of Jesus. Pilate chose to "satisfy the crowd" and had Jesus scourged and crucified. Pilate saved himself from the anger and hatred of the crowd, while an innocent man suffered and died. This pathetic event of "satisfying the crowd" continues to happen in our own lives today.

In the workplace, both employer and employee have to make difficult choices, too, under pressure from a different kind of 'crowd' -a host of needs wanting to be satisfied, goals to be reached, targets to be realized, standards and expectations to be met. This 'crowd' of needs may determine our decisions regarding our work and the people around us. For example, employers stressed by financial obligations to the bank might pinch the salary and benefits of the workers. Managers afraid to be blamed for an anomaly might fire innocent subordinates to cover up the blunder. The excessive desire to acquire many things and amenities in life might push a worker to work overtime to the extent of depriving his family of his valuable presence.

Innocent people may suffer 'scourging and the crucifixion' due to the dehumanizing effects of our wrong choices. An intent look on the suffering face of the Crucified Jesus will make us want to please Him more than to satisfy the 'crowd' around and within us.

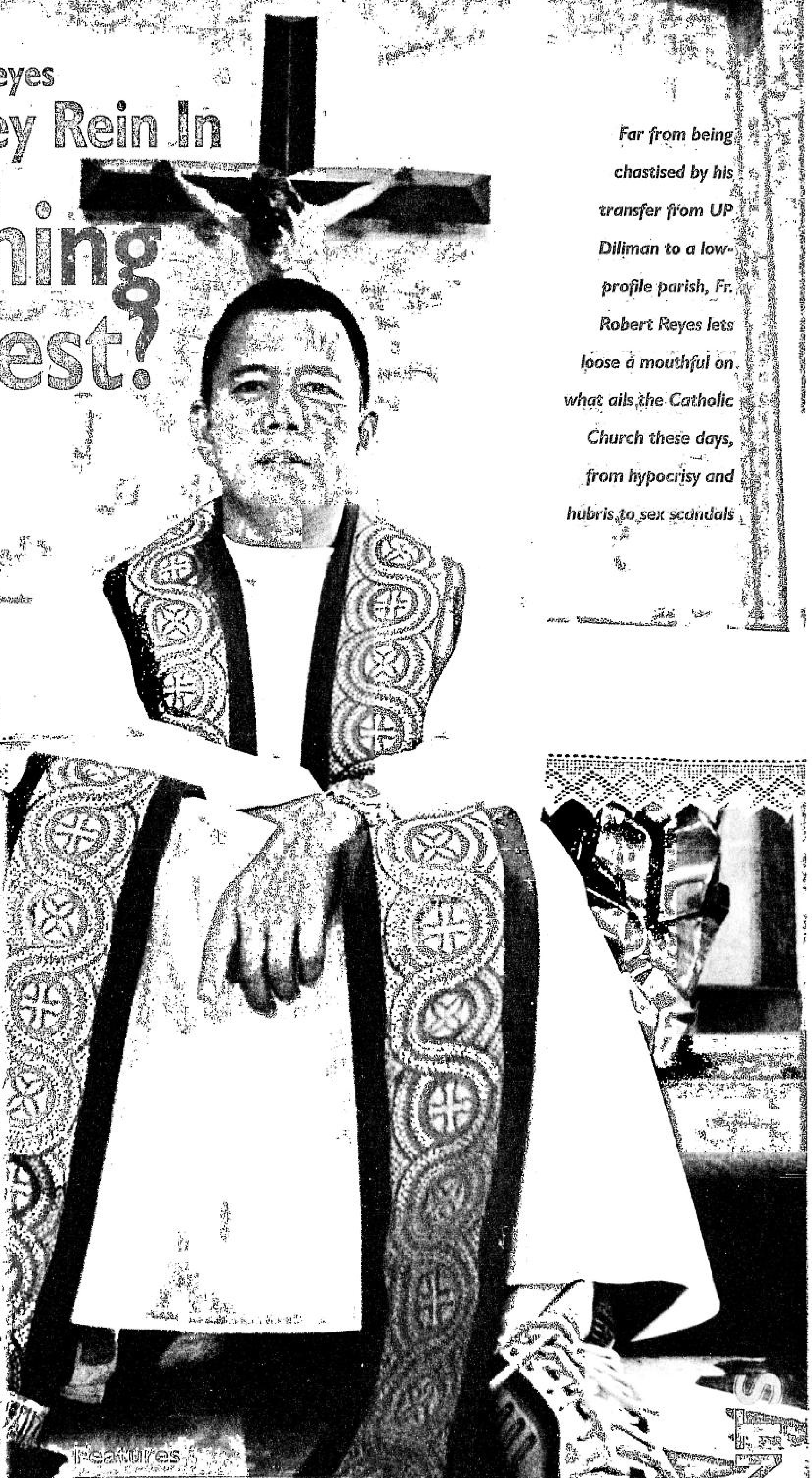
(Email the author at mfvg@skyinet.net*)*

sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
April 13, 2003

Fr. Robert Reyes

Can They Rein In the Running Priest?

Far from being chastised by his transfer from UP Diliman to a low-profile parish, Fr. Robert Reyes lets loose a mouthful on what ails the Catholic Church these days, from hypocrisy and hubris to sex scandals



by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photographs by Mike Alquinto

HIS reputation outruns him by a mile.

Fr. Robert Reyes has been chided by some quarters for wading neck-deep into politics, for mouthing-off on just about every issue, and for pounding the pavement in the name of causes too numerous to enumerate.

In fact, the speculation goes, the Running Priest's transfer from the prestigious UP Diliman chapel to the more congested Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal parish in Project 4, Quezon City, could be a reprimand of the outspoken cleric, who has gained fame for jogging in shorts to protest issues ranging from the war on Iraq to environment causes to sidewalk vendors being cleared off public streets.

On the contrary, he says, the transfer is not a demotion but a promotion. "Wherever you go, God promotes you. It's just a matter of perspective. The problem with the church is that it clings to its hierarchical values too much with the mentality that the higher you are, the less vulnerable you become. In fact, you are more liable to hurt yourself or break your leg when you fall from higher ground. The closer you are to the ground, to reality, the more stable your movements."

But while he has accepted his new assignment quietly, the 48-year-old Reyes admits to feeling hurt by the decision. "I would like the church to realize an injustice: How come it decided to move me—and after seven years at UP, I ought to be moved—but there are some priests who are immoveable? They know who they are! Cardinal Sin knows who they are. Some priests, they've been in the same parishes for 21, 25 years and they're not being moved. Why? There should be an immediate reshuffling. Everybody moves!"

He traces what he sees as unequal treatment to materialism. "Some priests become friends with very rich families in prominent parishes. In fact, that is what keeps the church from being critical of tycoon Lucio Tan, Danding Cojuangco, and even (President) Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo). It's because of the secret liaisons that the church has with rich people. I just want to remind the church not to make statements about being a church of the poor when in fact so many of us really belong to the church of the rich."

Some quarters might counter that Reyes himself seems attached to things of this world, foremost of this the media that never fail to highlight his latest crusade or fun run. He acknowledges as much.

"When I was transferred here, a parishioner reminded me, 'Your mission is this parish and you have to focus.' She said she'd like to warn me to spend more time with parishioners so they can understand what I'm all about and get their support. I take her advice seriously. My first six months here would be a time of immersion in the parish and of dialogue with parishioners.

"At the same time, I told them during my first Mass here, 'I know my reputation has preceded me and I feel you already know me—I run and I

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fr. Robert

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Media hound? "But John Paul II said to use the means for social communication," Reyes says

get involved politically in social and environment issues, but that's because the Gospel means involvement. Jesus never stayed in a parish. He was never parochial. He never built a single chapel. In fact, Jesus complained at how people mistake the temple for the kingdom of God.' "

He is also aware, Reyes adds, of the change from the liberal academic atmosphere of his previous parish to the more rigorous expectations in his new one. "I was cautioned: This is a very conservative parish and people might not understand priests who get involved in politics, who exposes his legs while he runs and keeps snakes for pets."

Much of their fears are based on mere perception, says Reyes.

"People think I take on all kinds of causes, but I neither have the time nor the energy for that. I pray for discernment and ask my friends at Gomburza, an organization of religious and lay people, whether we should get involved in a particular issue."

He takes exception as well to charges that he is too political. "Well, look at Cardinal Sin. EDSA 1 and 2 are Cardinal Sin. If a big man does it, nobody complains, but since I am just a small man..." In fact, he adds, he has no plans of ever entering politics. "I'm a more effective gadly outside of it," he says, adding that he has spurned several offers of public office from the Arroyo government "because I don't want to be coopted."

His reputation as a media hound is likewise undeserved, says Reyes. "I give the impression that I grant every interview request even when I've said no lots of times. But I also believe in what Pope John Paul II himself said, to use the means for social communication."

Media is a double-edged tool, he adds. While it has given him the means to pitch his causes, it has also caused him trouble, even at home. "My mother scolds me all the time every time I get into media. '*Itigil mo na yan!* Enough with the media. Stop criticizing the Americans.' And I tell her, 'But I'm fighting for peace! Besides, who taught me to stand up for what's right? *Ayun, tahimik na siya* (that silences her)."

Persistence has always distinguished this eldest child from his three other siblings. His father, an accountant from Malabon and teacher mother, could only sigh in exasperation when the young Reyes insisted on the priesthood because "my childhood idols included St. Francis of Assisi and St. Ignatius de Loyola. But my father wanted me to finish college, send my siblings to school and only then plan my life. I kept arguing through the years until finally, he gave in and I took up AB Philosophy at Ateneo. I was 27 when I was ordained 21 years ago."

As a young priest, Reyes confesses to finding celibacy the most challenging vow. "I've always been tempted sexually, but now that I'm 48, there are less and less temptations," he laughs. "It's funny how some people think that women throw themselves at me. Where are these women? They also say I have women in Baguio, Batangas, or Antipolo. It's true, I have a woman in Antipolo: Veron of St. Michael's Retreat House, and she's 60 years old. Ooops, I hope she doesn't kill me for revealing her age. Seriously, the only woman in my life is Karla, a 15-foot snake that's the mother of my baby snakes." The snakes, which he keeps in the basement of his *parokya*, represent the wild, and are a symbol of natural wilderness. "As long as there are snakes, that means we still have a healthy environment," he says.

POWER TO THE FEET

It was abroad where he first faced very strong temptation, Reyes reveals. "I was assigned in Rome and there I met a lot of overseas Filipino workers who are very lonely people. Good thing I have this friend, another priest from Melbourne whom I'd call whenever I was feeling randy, and we'd talk about it."

These days, he says, he turns to running "to discipline my body, my mind, guts, reproductive organs, my spirit. I'm a man and I have my demons so I push myself. When you go beyond your normal limits, you become immortal." Running, he adds, is a metaphor. "It's how the church and government should be. If we need to act faster, we don't sit, kneel, lie down or walk. We run."

All that running and he's bound to get tired. Is it true, as alleged by some quarters, that he would often hitch a ride to the finish line when nobody's looking?

"That's not true," he denies hotly. "I've never cheated in my entire life. Ask the generals who, as a form of discipline, ask their soldiers to run alongside me. They know I run 40-60 kms a day on the average. I once ran 140 kms in a day. That was on Dec. 30 to 31, 1999, to welcome the new millennium."

Running, Reyes says, is a form of spirituality for him, "when body and soul are totally engaged." And that, he adds, is where the church's problems begin. "The church cuts up the human person so you have people who pray only with their heads, or only with their hearts, or only with their body. You cannot pray in compartments. Spirituality is the total person engaged in prayer, so that the total person is lifted up to God."

Such tendency is translated into the sexuality of priests, "which is very cerebral," notes Reyes. "We think of sex with our heads and forget that we have two heads, up and down. We should accept that we have a mind, brain, stomach and penis, and should grow into our celibate state fully accepting every part of ourselves."

So how does he reconcile such frank and forthright views on sexuality with his silence on the sex scandal involving Bishop Crisostomo Yalung of Antipolo?

He's never been silent on the issue, says Reyes. "I was the only one speaking out when those sex scandals in the church exploded in May last year. Reporters who couldn't get any quotes from the Catholic Bishops Conference or from Cardinal Sin came to me. But I've been silenced on the issue and told to lay low and cool it. So when I was asked about Bishop Yalung, I said I know nothing based on actual encounter but only from third parties, and that would be gossip."

If it's any consolation, he adds, he will be lying low from media and all that controversy for the next few months, as he shifts gears and adjusts to his new parish. "I'm excited about the change. From 50,000 parishioners and one barangay in UP, I now have at least 120,000 parishioners crammed into 13 barangays. Unlike the elitist community in UP, I am now in direct contact with the poor 24 hours a day. There is so much poverty here. *Kung may askal, asong kalye, ako paskal—pare sa kalye* (if there's a stray dog, I'm a stray priest). I've developed an affinity for the streets where I belong."

Fortunately, some things never change, like the wooden cart (*kariton*) that is still parked by the altar of his new parish, no matter that a rich matron once took Reyes to task "'for desecrating the image of the Virgin Mary that should instead be put on a pedestal."

"The *kariton* is a thing of the streets, an artifact of the poor, a trademark of poverty," he says. "It also stands for movement. Starting this Saturday and every Saturday, from 6 to 8 am, I will be pushing that *kariton* with the barangay captains to clean up Project 4.

The *kariton*'s movement contrasts sharply with "the sedentary character of the church, a cancer that needs radical treatment," says Reyes. "We're a devotional church with very little action. If there's a problem, Cardinal Sin always tells us to pray the rosary. It's very easy to pray the rosary. What is difficult is going in front of the US embassy and telling them to stop the war. The church has to go beyond being devotional, or it will lose the poor. I am uncomfortable with a church unable to translate her words into action. Yes, Jesus prayed, but his whole 12-15 hours were spent walking and talking with the people."

That's exactly what he plans to do in the next six months, he says: "Explore the nooks and crannies of Project 4 so I can get to know the different personalities and politics of the place."

Being booted out of UP was painful, he admits, but now he thanks the Lord "for making (him) a pilgrim."

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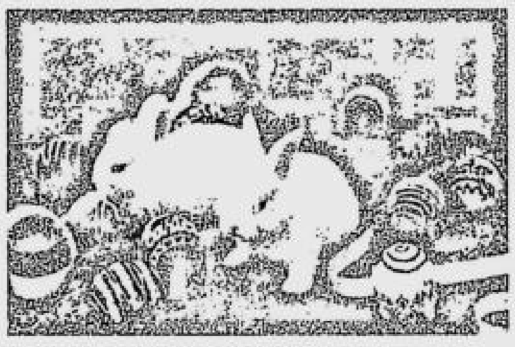

EASTER SUNDAY BLOWOUT New World Renaissance Hotel invites families to celebrate Easter Sunday at the deluxe property as it offers a choice of delicious buffet lunches and fun-filled activities for kids like the Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, puppet show and magic tricks performed by Wizzo the Clown at the hotel lobby. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

GOODBYE LITO

I was sad to read about Lito Molina's passing away ("Farewell, Jazz Friend," SIM, 16 March 2003).

Lito was a cool cat—a journalist by day, musician by night. I wrote a story for a magazine once on his remarkable recovery from a stroke and his determination to keep playing the alto sax. He was patient, accommodating, generous with his knowledge, especially of the jazz greats—a comforting presence with his jokes delivered in that low-key voice.

Watching Lito and his Jazz Friends in free gigs at the Thomas Jefferson Center (does this place on Araneta Ave. still exist?) in my college days woke me up to the liberating joys of jazz.

I could only break into a wide smile when, after not having heard about him for years since leaving Manila in 1985, I read that he was the father-in-law of actress Rosanna Roces. I told you he was a cool cat!

RUBEN NEPALES
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ONLINE FAN

I enjoy reading your articles about Philippine actors. I now added your magazine to my "Favorites" box. I will check on it again next week.

ROSE BERNARDO
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ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!
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Celebrities

By Leah Salterio

Joyce Inc.

HALF of the country's male population has undoubtedly fantasized about her. But as one writer once said of Joyce Jimenez, "The greatest thing about Joyce isn't from the neck down, but from the neck up. The body is just a plus."

For the 24-year-old actress, that's the best thing that's been said about her. After being in showbiz for six years, Joyce has learned to take every positive comment as a compliment, and negative publicity in stride.

"A few months back, they criticized me because I was fat, she recalls, "but it was true at that time. They also criticized my acting and my Tagalog. But except for the rumors on my having had several abortions, the press has been very good to me."

Joyce says there's still a lot to her private life that most people don't know about.

"I always try to keep my private life private," she says. "I joined showbiz with the understanding that my private life would be invaded because it comes with the job. But I only let the public know as much as I want them to know. At the end of the day, no matter what people say about you, you're the only person who can confirm or deny it. It's up to you if you want to talk about it."

Now sporting a cropped mane, Joyce, who is also a lot slimmer (from 125 pounds, she's down to 106) says the new hairstyle is a requirement for her next movie.

Joyce is now filming Joey Reyes' "Power Girls," with Assunta de Rossi and Ai-Ai de las Alas. She plays a magazine editor in the movie.

Six years in show biz has also allowed Joyce to save

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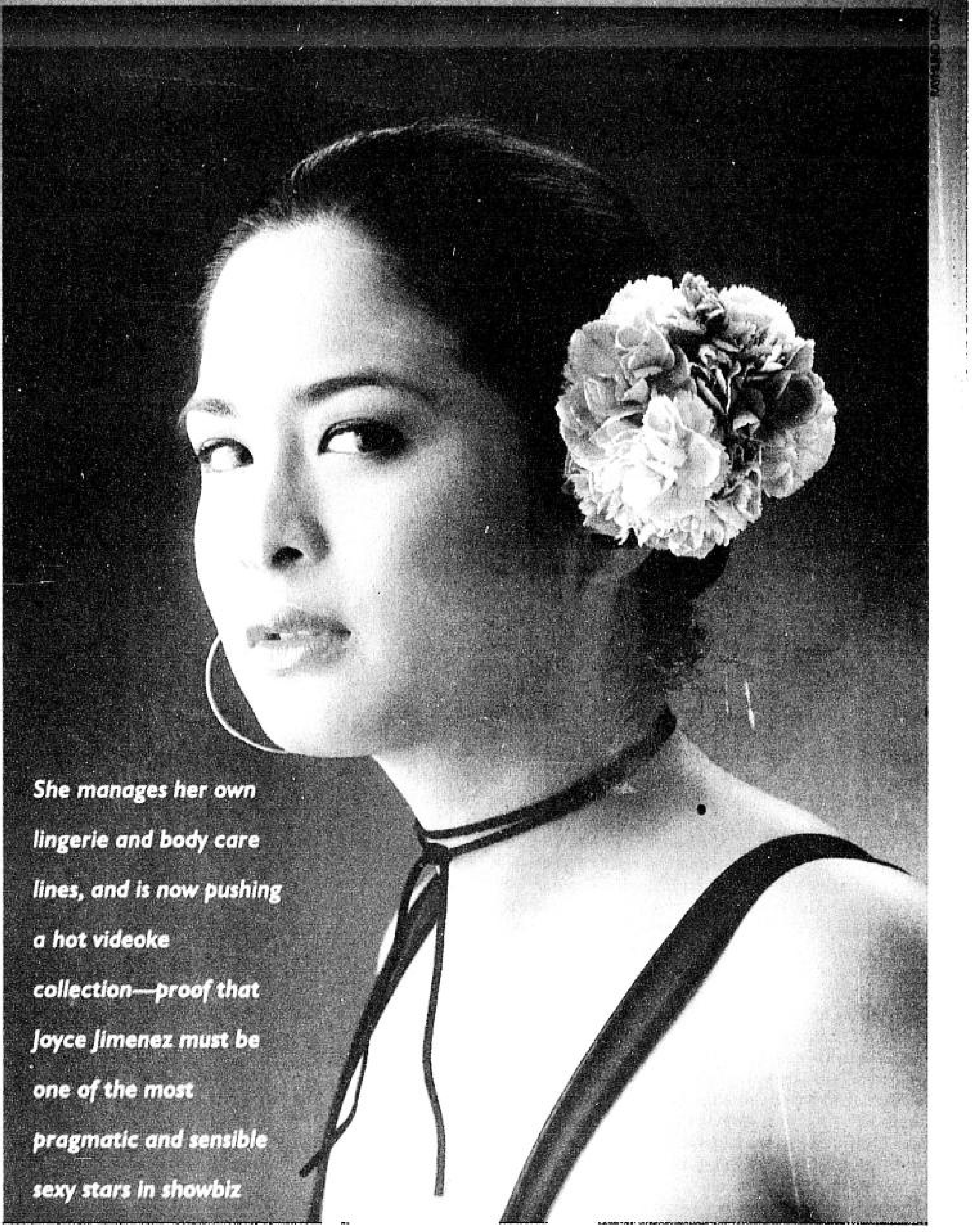

She manages her own lingerie and body care lines, and is now pushing a hot videoke collection—proof that Joyce Jimenez must be one of the most pragmatic and sensible sexy stars in showbiz

This Palm Sunday,
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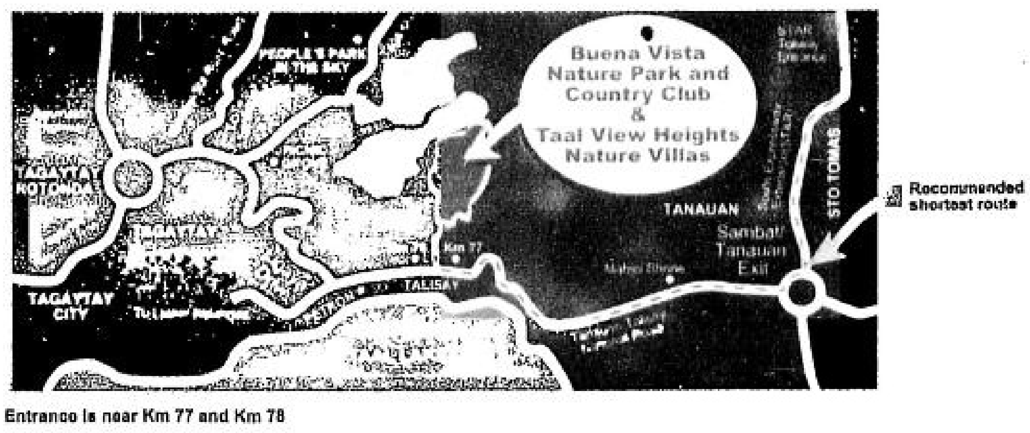
- Kite-flying

Celebrate Palm Sunday Mass with us at 11:00 AM.



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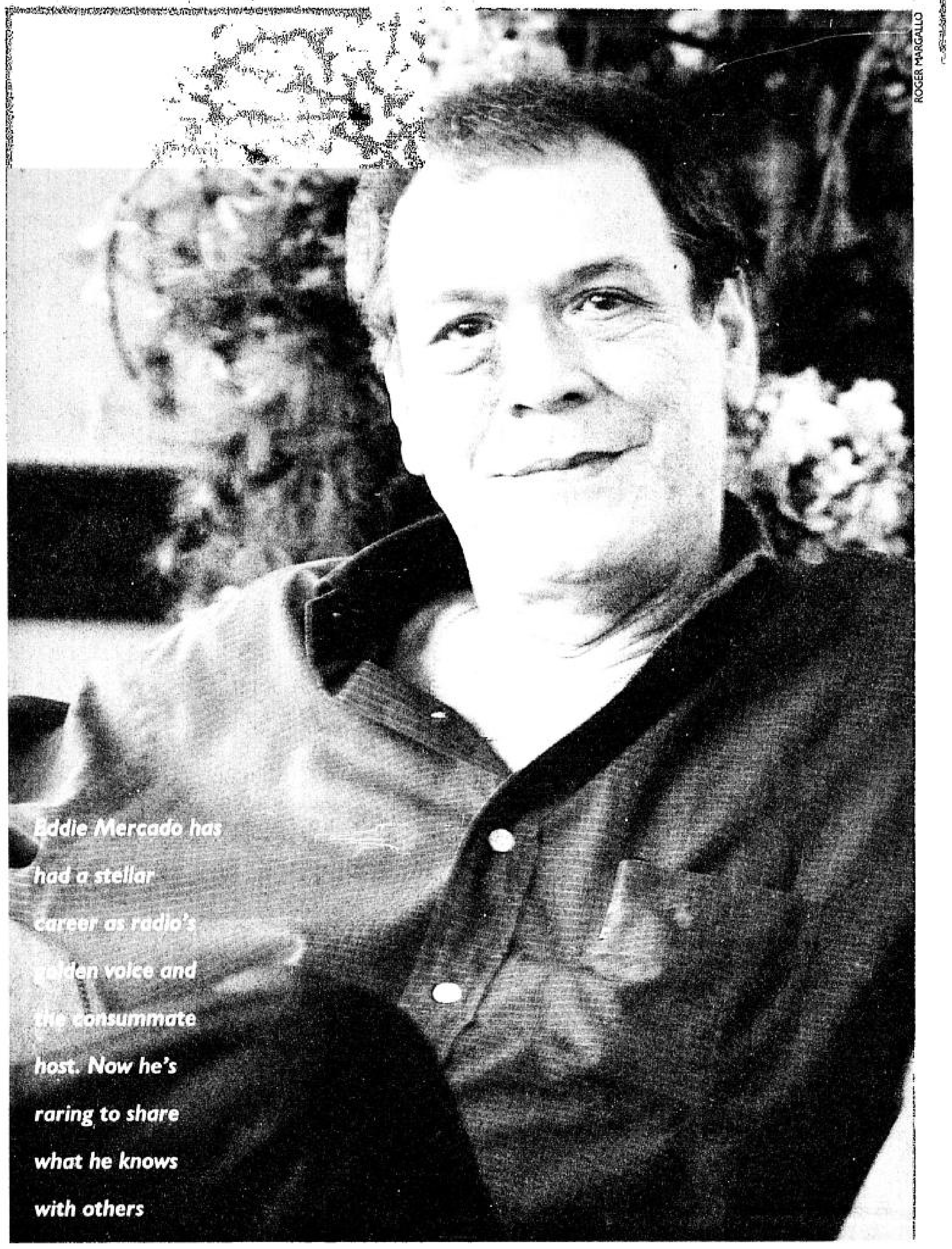

ROGER MARGALLO

Eddie Mercado has had a stellar career as radio's golden voice and the consummate host. Now he's raring to share what he knows with others

IT'S THE same face, handsome but not perfectly chiseled. It's the same voice, deep and elegant, with the least hint of the cigarettes that he smokes and the red wine that, he says, he now gets by on. The humor hasn't changed, either—funny but polite.

Eddie Mercado is a man who knows his manners. He does not make you laugh at the expense of anyone. He talks about his mistakes on stage, his career booboos, and if he lets on some funny secret about someone he introduced or asked a question on stage, he makes sure the joke's on him. We're on a working lunch date, and I am face to face with the man whose diction my former English teacher tried to imitate.

Who hasn't seen Eddie Mercado host a television show, or a beauty pageant, or some special event? You name it, and Eddie most likely stood there in his tux or evening jacket, relating to the audience in a suave and cool manner. You would think there was no script, and he never rehearsed for this special night. Or that, on some glamorous evening at the Araneta Coliseum in the '60s or the '70s, when he introduced a performer and no one came on stage, and he kept talking calmly, there might have been a fire backstage or some hairpulling, for all the audience knew.

"You came to be entertained, I am paid good money, and the producers put their trust in you; why should I allow something to destroy an otherwise beautiful night?" asks Eddie.

It is this same presence of mind and this self confidence that Eddie Mercado is set to share with students who have enrolled in a course in hosting and public speaking for the Trumpets' playshop this summer.

It's a twice-a-week, two-hour session for those who are 13 and up, which began last April 1 and runs until June 7. "I take this summer teaching job seriously, as much as I do my hosting on television, radio or on stage for live presentations," says Eddie who, for the last three years, has been teaching public speaking, communication and public relations to college students of the Southville International School in Parañaque.

"You never know when you'll be asked to speak before an audience," he says. "Or there's a party in your office, there's a school reunion, and you're asked to say a few words. Other times, just because you're the gregarious one, they ask you to hold the whole evening together.

"But you end up refusing because you don't know how to go about it. Sooner or later, you'll find yourself in this situation. This course I'm teaching will get nervousness out of your system, it will make you ready for that unexpected dury, and it will make you say the right words and not fumble."

Eddie, once upon a time, too, had so much confidence that it led him to the gates of LVN Pictures.

Well, it was a child's confidence. He was only 11 years old. "Everyday, I would join the long line in front of the studio, along with the fans and the rest who may have been there for the same reason that I was.

"Finally, the guard noticed, and asked me why I was always there. I told him I wanted to be in the movies. He asked me to come in, maybe because I was just a child, and told me to look for Jose Generoso, who was then one of Doña Sisang's trusted executives. I found my way around, and the next thing I knew, he was asking me if I had a photograph. I said yes," relates Eddie.

He then ran back to their home, about seven kilometers away, and negotiated the creek that divided Kamuning, where he lived, and P. Tuazon in Cubao, where the studio was located. "I came back running, certain I would soon be a star. I gave him the only picture I had, which showed me receving the Purple Heart on behalf of my father, who died during the war." The studio's big man looked at him, and prevailed upon him to "go home and come back when you're older and taller." The boy went home, vowing "I would never enter these gates again unless they asked me to and offered me a role in the movies."

A greenhorn Eddie tries his hand at singing

Eddie lost his parents and kid brother when he was only six years old. To forget the hurts of his early childhood, the young boy would watch movie shoots at the Liwaway Studio, along Sampaloc Avenue (now Morato), where he and his grandparents lived right after the war.

His infatuation for showbiz grew as he watched movies with his grandparents, especially those starrring Charlie Chaplin and Abbot and Costello. "I vividly remember watching Cris de Vera in the war film 'Sunset Over Corregidor,' " recalls Eddie.

It was a different avenue he would take towards the attainment of his childhood dream, however. A radioman, Phil Delfino, was courting his first cousin Pilar. For a week, Eddie would go back and forth to Phil, and was thus exposed to radio work. "It was love at first sight. I hung around a lot."

Eddie would not only hang around; he would also learn how to spin records. One time, he asked Angelo Castro if he could have a radio show. "Sure, prepare a format and see me on Tuesday" was the response.

And that was how Eddie's first show, "Teenage Slam-Bang," was started. At home, the elders would not hear of his joining the radio. "They felt that if I enjoyed what I was doing, I would not finish high school anymore," Eddie says. His uncle, who was a military man, was very much against it, and soon "they had me grounded and 'jailed' in an army camp just to prevent me from going to the radio station. They even had me banned on the radio station, so I ended up transferring to DZAQ." One Sunday the uncle looked for Eddie, and his *lola* repeated Eddie's excuse that he was seeing his friends. Somehow, the uncle didn't believe that. He turned on the radio and after 30 minutes of monitoring all the stations, he heard Eddie's voice. That night, when Eddie went home, the uncle was still there. "I knew then I was in for a tongue-lashing. But you know what he said? 'We heard you and you were quite good.'" That night, he received his family's blessings to continue, provided he finish high school.

Soon, Eddie would move on to other radio stations. At DZBS, he would share the minimum monthly salary of P120 with Art Galindez. That was the first time he was ever paid. Then, he moved to DZFM, where he would split his salary with Johnny Wilson and Minda Feliciano. Not long after, the Elizaldes would put up a television station, Channel 11. Eddie would host "DJ Dance Time."

The afternoon show became so succesful that it was made into a movie. This time, it was LVN Pictures that came knocking at his doorstep, to ask Eddie to play the role of the show's host. Eddie had finally come full circle, as far as that childhood episode of his was concerned. He would eventually appear in no less than 57 flicks.

Eddie would eventually finish college at the University of the East, but by then, he was also editing, narrating, writing columns and doing many other things. Emceeing beauty pageants, special events, game shows and other live events became his forte. "At one point, I was doing all these on television, on radio, and live on stage. There was a year I hosted all the major beauty contests," recalls Eddie.

The 1960s all the way to the early 1980s were very busy years for Eddie, but the economic slump after the murder of Ninoy Aquino made him decide to try his luck in the States. He worked as a paralegal, but "I was not one to sit the whole day behind the desk." On weekends, he would host programs for Filipino communities and went as far as Las Vegas, where he would renew acquantances with the likes of Andy Williams and strike friendships with the likes of Frank Sinatra. When he came home in the early 1990s, it was as if he never left.

Indeed, Eddie has had his share of heartaches, but "I am not one to let these things get in the way of my living life." More offers would come. For the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation or PAGCOR, he would host regular bingo games, to which he is credited with bringing a dignified and still entertaining way of hosting.

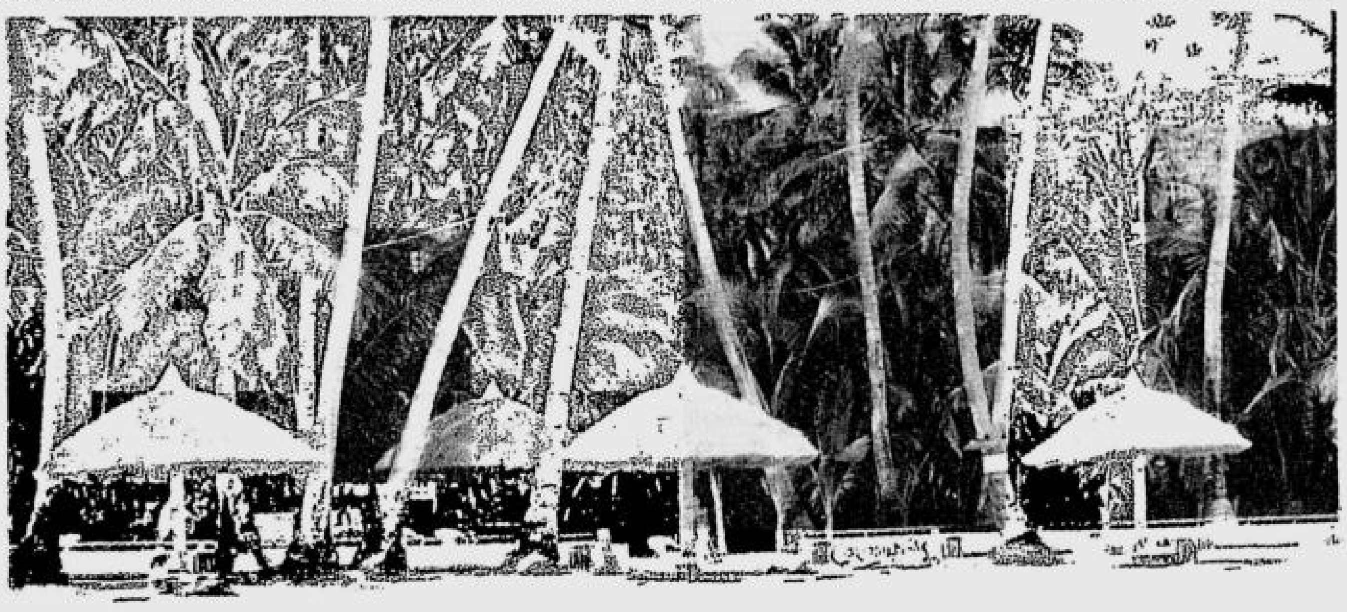
Eddie still goes back to the States when his schedule allows. Every Sunday on DWBR, he mans one hour of a seven-hour slot that also features "friends from the old days like Ben Aniceto, Eddie Ilarde, Jo San Diego, Lito Gorospe and Bong Lapira."

To would-be hosts, he offers three words that will put them in good stead: Truth, humility and sincerity. But then, he also adds, "Never say no to anything that comes your way."

Call Trumpets at tel no. 633-5010 or 636-2842.

Hosting beauty pageants, local and international, would become his forte

Only one reigns with over 9 million subscribers this summer



The blazing hot days of summer are with us once again and Smart is in full throttle party mode. With Smart's 8 million subscriber milestone celebrations still fresh in the minds of all those who reveled during the Domin8 series last December, Smart kicks off this summer with yet another reason to celebrate: another 1 million subscribers earned in a span of just a few months, bringing its ever-growing subscriber base to over a whopping 9 million.

Smart Rei9ns promises to be the theme party of the year. Aptly, the parties will be thrown in 9 popular hotspots across the country. Baguio, Subic, Laguna, Batangas, Puerto Galera, Boracay, Cebu, Davao and Metro Manila, are the chosen destinations to get blitzed by a series of concerts, parties, games and dazzling firework displays.

Starting April 16, the Smart Rei9ns festivities will begin in Baguio, Batangas, Boracay, Davao and Enchanted Kingdom. For Smart subscribers who choose to reminisce Panagbenga and spend the holidays amidst the pine trees and crisp mountain air of Baguio, a free refreshing welcome drink awaits them at either Camp John Hay or Baguio Country Club. For those who opt for the powder-fine sand and turquoise green waters of Boracay, admission to a 3-day Easter dance carnival featuring Slinky and Anton Ramos is guaranteed. For the divers, Smart has tied-up with Balai Dive Resort to give free dives for the first 10 Smart subscribers every week. And for a totally enchanting offer, get a free 'Ride All' ticket at Enchanted Kingdom for every ticket bought using Smart Money or Mobile Coupon. And that's just for starters. For those first 50 subscribers at Venue, Davao, they will get free entrance to the Freestyle concert. Sim Swappers to the SMART Buddy 64K on the event day likewise get a free ticket.

Looking ahead, Smart Rei9ns is in fact a treasure trove of offers designed to make each and every one of their 9 million subscribers feel rewarded for their loyalty, as well as give new subscribers a taste of what makes Smart simply amazing.

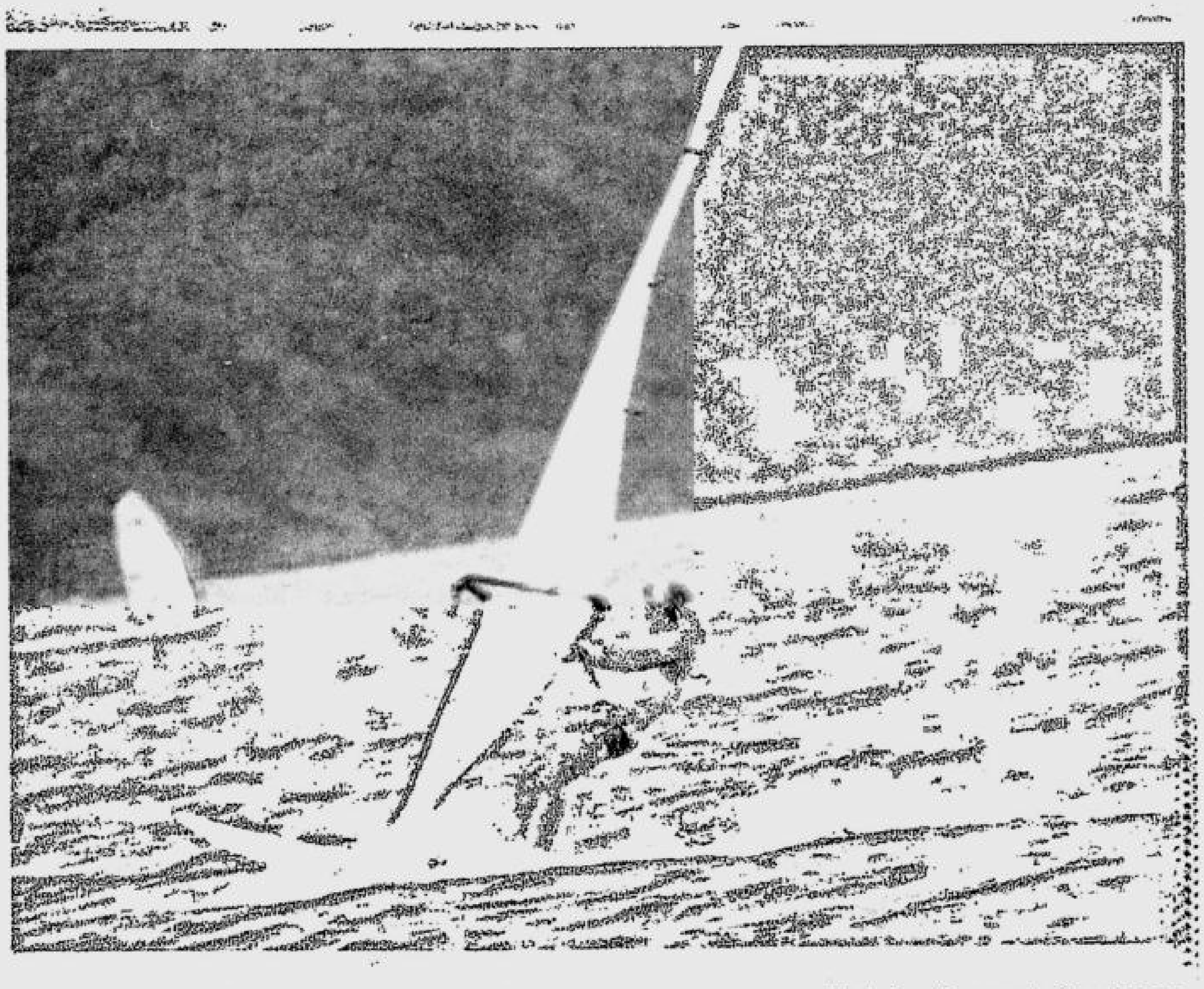
And for those who aren't yet on the Smart network, there are myriad reasons to sign up pronto. With Smart Buddy, purchase a brand new Nokia 2100 or a Nokia 3315 at incredibly affordable prices. Or if you prefer, SIM Swap to a Smart Buddy 64K Super SIM and get neat summer premium items via pick-a-prize, ranging from mesh bags, visors, caps, water cell pouches and beach mats. Similarly, you can also purchase a Smart Buddy 64K Super SIM for only P199 and avail of the premium items via pick-a-prize as well.

With Talk 'N Text, grab a stylish mesh bag when you SIM Swap to Talk 'N Text Power SIM, purchase a Talk 'N Text Power SIM for only P150 or when you purchase a minimum Call and Text Card of just P300.

With Smart Gold, SIM Swap or avail of the Gold Rush package and get a cool premium item. The higher the plan, the more premium the item. You can also avail of a free vanity kit by simply activating "My Calendar" and "Horoscope".

SMART IDD is giving away free cool postcards to visitors at the booth.

For those who load their celfones using Smart Electronic Load, a chance to win a premium item through pick-a-prize awaits you. The more credits you load, the more chances you get of picking-a-prize. And with Smart Money, enroll in the loyalty program, pay just P200 and get a stylish mesh bag or vanity kit. Also, you can register to Smart Mobile Coupon service by typing <Reg First Name, Last Name, Birthday, Gender, Interest, # of messages to be received/week> and send to 270 for 3 chances to win a pen or notepad.



And finally, for the savvy techies out there who indulge in a lot of MMS, activate your Smart MMS and GPRS features using your MMS-capable handset and get a chance to win a stylish mesh beach bag.

Expect to see more perks exclusively for Smart subscribers in all 9 hotspots. The 'Mobile Clinic', for instance, is a new concept designed to assist Smart subscribers with their celfone needs. Expect to see a lounge and service center exclusively for Smart transactions. This is just one of the many privileges in store for Smart subscribers this summer.

Expect to see and hear more about Smart Rei9ns as we prepare for yet another heatwave. If one thing's for sure, there'll be at least 9 million happy, partying out-of-towners this summer…

ADVT.

LoveNotes

Loving A Seminarian

We were so happy, but we both knew that we couldn't make our relationship formal—and Glenn is graduating before the month ends

Dear Joe,

My first boyfriend and I had spent four years together before our relationship stalled. It appeared that I would have to decide whether we would end it or just coast along. Rodney is intelligent, handsome, and really kind, but something was missing in our relationship. He wasn't holding me by the neck, but I felt like I needed some air. And so we agreed to a cooling-off period.

It was during this time that I met Glenn. I was burying my nose in my Biochemistry assignment when my cellphone would indicate missed calls. I eventually found out who he was and where he had first seen me. I learned that he was a seminarian and was once assigned to our local parokya.

Things happened fast. Since Glenn was a seminarian, I found myself sharing with him my problematic relationship with Rodney. He became the significant force in defining what I really needed to do at that time. And he proved to be a good counselor. I finally gathered the wisdom and strength to free myself from Rodney and rebuild my life without him.

Glenn and I took time to get close to each other. We would meet to eat, talk, laugh—everything was just sunny, and my happiness was beyond logic. I just feel like he's the man I've been looking for, the man I wanted Rodney to be.

We were so happy, but we both knew that we couldn't make our relationship formal. And that's the sad fact that stares at us even now. Glenn is graduating before the month ends.

With his graduation must come his decision to either proceed into Theology or leave the seminary. We still keep in touch, but it's no longer like the old days. There's now this understood distance we both need to keep. I want him to decide what he really wants. I still feel this excitement whenever he texts or calls, but the thought of him choosing to pursue the priesthood breaks my heart. He promised me nothing, but he said he loves me. And I believe it, despite his confusion as to what he really intends to do after his graduation.

I still feel a slight twinge of guilt about Rodney's hope that I would one day give our relationship a second chance. I know that I love Glenn but until now, Rodney's shadow is still here.

Joe, it's apparent that I have to wait for Glenn's decision. But is it wise to be hopeful? Do I have to wait for him despite all the advice I get from friends to just let him go?

Sincerely yours,
Geebee

Geebee,

I believe that it is important to be sure about what you feel for Rodney before you dwell on your feelings for Glenn. Is it just pity you feel for him, or can there really be a second chance to get back together? You wanted Rodney to hang around because you were afraid of losing him. But at the same time, you were already treading new ground. Don't you think it was a bit unfair to keep him hanging on with no guarantee? Now that you are sure that it is Glenn you really love, I think you just have to let Rodney know that there is no hope for a second wind. It will hurt, but it is always better to be honest than to lie about our true feelings.

Geebee, Glenn must be having a very difficult time deciding what path to take. He was the one who started this, and now he has gotten you deeply and emotionally involved with him. One of the greatest virtues of love is patience. It means being able to wait despite the passage of time. When we decide to love someone, we should not hurry that person to give us a guarantee or to love us back. Love is not true if it is based on what we expect to get in return. True love just loves without conditions. If someone is truly meant for us, that person will return the love that we have given and make our dreams a reality.

All I can say is, wait as long as your heart can. But do not wait forever. The real winners in this game are the ones who know how to stop when they have to, and not the ones who continue to live in the shadow of those who have stopped loving them.

Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

Joyce

...from page 3

enough money to buy her own condo unit at Eastwood City and send her only brother to a culinary school in California. She also invests in US stocks.

Joyce has gained enough savvy to put up her own business venture: Private Joyce, which started with intimate apparel and has recently ventured into skin products and perfumes.

"When I'm not working, I'm busy talking with suppliers, checking deliveries, buying new stuff, checking how much we made or what we should get," Joyce says.

She's a hands-on entrepreneur, putting the price tags herself and checking on stocks.

"We're not a big business," she says. "It's just me and my manager. We don't have too many people to help us. So whatever we can do, we do it ourselves. I learn the ropes that way. I'm happy doing it."

Joyce is doubly careful in marketing and promoting her products since the merchandise carries her name. "I also have to protect my image."

To date, Private Joyce has three company-owned stores and six franchises in Manila. Recently, the Private Joyce line branched out into a four-volume videoke package, released by BMG Records. The videos show Joyce in various provocative but tasteful shots. The videos were shot in Boracay, the Manila Hotel and Manila Galleria Suites, with TV director Rico Gutierrez at the helm.

Joyce insists that the videos are not the usual videoke shots that accompany the lyrics of a certain song. "There is a concept. It's not just me walking on the beach or riding a sailboat."

The videos also showcase her Private Joyce intimate apparel via 16 songs classified as pop, pop-standards, and OPM. She specifically requested for Rico Gutierrez to direct the videos.

"I've worked with him before and have complete trust in him," Joyce says. "I'm very comfortable with him. There was no tension on the set at all. The shoot was a breeze."

She is not a singer, but Joyce has a four-album contract with BMG Records for the videoke collection.

Since the project was launched early this month, Joyce has been tirelessly promoting the videoke collection. She even embarked on an extensive mall tour like a full-fledged recording star.

"*Sayang* (it will be such a waste) if I don't give it my all," Joyce asserts. "Even when I make a movie, I don't end my work on the final shooting day. I go all the way to promoting it. No matter how good the product is, if you don't sell it well, *sayang naman. Bale wala.*

"Besides, the product carries my name and I'm proud of it. I don't want people to blame me for not giving it my all."

The actress is optimistic that Private Joyce the videoke collection would sell on its own, sans any gimmick or controversy about her.

"There's no gimmick needed here because it's only me. I don't need to sing, but I will promote it as much as I can."

While she continues to explore the facets of her professional life, Joyce also expresses her desire to go to college and take up child development, but definitely not at this time.

"I won't be able to focus on my studies if I enroll now," says Joyce. "Maybe when there's not as much film or television work, I can finally go to college."

After her controversial romance with actor Jay Manalo, Joyce has not been in a serious relationship, although she admits that she goes out on dates.

"Sexy," for her, is a guy who can carry an intelligent conversation with her. "I don't want him *naman* to just stare at me," Joyce maintains. "What will I do? I don't want to get into a shallow conversation just to be with a guy."

Even if she decides to get married one day and have a family, Joyce does not see herself giving up her career because of love. "If I decide to give it up, that will be my own decision and not because a guy has asked me to do it. I'll take care of my kids and my husband, but I won't let anyone run my life, much less one guy. I'm not going to change for one person."

Joyce attributes her success in showbiz to sheer hard work. She is never ashamed of the things she did in the past, nor does she regret anything.

She is fortunate enough to be surrounded by friends who don't regard her as a movie star.

"Sometimes I get special treatment but I don't demand it, even from the people I work with," she says. "I'm still the same person I was six years ago, when I joined showbiz."

Noteworthy

A Shining Life's Legacy

The First Maningning Miclat Poetry Award celebrates the artist/poet's all-too-brief life

However you look at it, 28 is just too young an age for anyone to die. But it becomes even more tragic when you're an award-winning poet in three languages as well as an accomplished artist. But when Maningning Miclat died on September 29, 2000, she became a virtual symbol of the artistic life's joys and sorrows. Beloved by many, Maningning has been remembered by many in words, particularly in the book "Beauty for Ashes: Remembering Maningning," edited by her father Mario Miclat and friend Joey Baquiran.

From every year hence, Maningning will also be remembered with a unique award. Funded by the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation, the Maningning Miclat Poetry Award gives P28,000 to three poets under 28 years of age, in three separate language categories. Each poet must submit 8-15 poems that will be judged by topnotch writers. "Maningning's life was all about poetry and painting. Since she is no longer around, young poets can continue to celebrate, through their poetry, not only her life but also those of other poets in our land," says Alma Miclat, Maningning's mother.

One poet is named winner in each language category and gets a cash prize, while two others are named honorable mentions. This year's inaugural winners by category: English: Naya S. Valdellon, 21, from Ateneo (top prize), Rodrigo V. dela Peña, 21, from UP and Angelo V. Suarez, 18, from UST (honorable mention), Filipino: Joselito D. delos Reyes, 26, from the writers' group LIRA (top prize), Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles, 25, also from LIRA, and Mayo Uno Martin, 24, from UP (honorable mention). Chinese: No top prize, Cheng Yue, 21, from Beijing and Chen Pingsha, 16, from Fujian Province (honorable mention).

Aside from the poetry contest, there is also a Maningning website and an upcoming Maningning Miclat Award in Visual Art as soon as funds can accommodate it, says Alma.

"Our humble, gentle daughter would feel a bit embarrassed with the accolades," she adds of the awards ceremonies at the UP Executive House last April 11. "But I know she would be happy for the winners as she was happy during those times when she herself received awards, knowing she did her best. Deep in my heart, I know that she is still doing what she holds so dear in her heart up there."

Ruel S. De Vera

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Art

Rental Space, Olan Ventura's latest oil collection, will be on view at the Big & Small Art Co. at SM Megamall A until April 14.

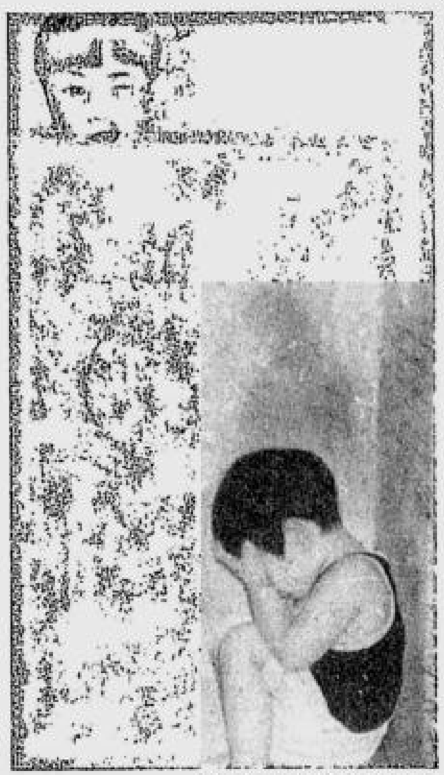
Unanan, Robert Feleo's exhibit of pieces that echoes the boat form which has deep roots in the Filipino culture, until April 22 at the Drawing Room, G/F, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City.

Czech Baroque Heritage, a photo exhibit that will take you back to the 17th and 18th centuries considered as the golden era of Czech architecture and art, until April 25 at the San Agustin Museum in Intramuros.

Academic, big works on paper by R.M. de Leon, until April 30 at Galleria Duemila, The Artwalk, SM Megamall A.

Projections, an exhibit featuring antique charts made by Alejandro Malaspina, Jean Francois La Perouse and renowned Jesuit Pedro de Murillo Velarde, navigational maps, military maps of 1944, and maps of Manila, until July 12 at the Lopez Museum, G/F Benpres Building, Exchange Road, Pasig.

Meditations in White, a solo exhibit by Datu Arellano at the CCP's Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo until April 28.



Olan Ventura's "Rental Space," on view at the Big & Small Art Co.

Phyllis Zaballero is holding an exhibit of new series of artworks depicting building facades until April 30 at the Ayala Museum.

The Society of Tourism Photographers will have its fourth photo-contest-cum-exhibit *Sang Taon na Po* until April 30 at the Puerta de Sta. Lucia (beside the Tourist Information Office) in Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit consists of photos depicting Philippine tourist attractions and festival as well as the achievement of Filipino women.

Marcelino Rodriguez is holding an exhibit of mixed media works at Jandro's Art Gallery, Antipolo St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City until April 30.

Music

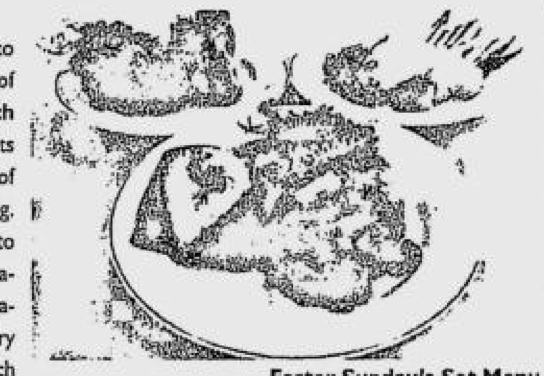
Unplugged, a back-to-back acoustic show by Nyoy Volante and Jimmy Bondoc at the Hard Rock Café, Makati all Wednesdays of April. For tickets, call 893-4661 to 64.

Mysteria Lucis **(Mysteries of Light)**, Star Records' contribution to the Catholic world's celebration of the Year of the Holy Rosary, will be launched in a nationwide church tour with a special performance by Jamie Rivera who will sing "Awit sa Ina ng Santo Rosario." Other performances will be on April 24, 5 p.m. at the Sanctuario del Santo Cristo Church, and May 1, 4:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Church.

Take time to reflect on Holy Week with new songs from the album, *Tayo Na!*, Elim Music's second all-Filipino revival worship recording. The album is available in CDs and cassettes. For inquiries, call 722-6749.

Food

Dusit Hotel Nikko presents a new set of **exquisite lunch meals** at all its outlets starting April as part of its anniversary offering. Guest mas choose to dine at The Café to savor Asian and International Buffet or try sumptuous Set Lunch Menus at any of Dusit's specialty restaurants—Benkay, Benjarong and Thien Duong. For inquiries, call 867-3333 ext. 3301-3304.



Easter Sunday's Set Menu at Thien Duong Vietnamese Cuisine of Dusit Hotel Nikko

Enjoy a lavish **Easter Buffet Brunch** at The Lobby and Nielsen's of Peninsula Manila. The whole family can also enjoy Italian food at its finest at Mi Piace, a leisurely afternoon tea at The Upper Lobby or fill Easter hampers with edible delights at Peninsula Exclusivites. For details, call 887-2888 ext.2232.

From homegrown dishes to **Asian specialties and Western delicacies**, Streetlife (3/L, Glorietta 3) offers a wide array of choices to fulfill your discriminating taste and accommodate your budget even as you observe the Lenten season. You can feast on loca seafood favorites, Chinese or Japanese dishes, pizza specialties, french fries, onion rings and generous servings of nachos and cheese.

On Easter Sunday, InterContinental Manila will offer a delicious **brunch buffet** at the Grand Ballroom followed by an Easter Egg Hunt complete with mascots, clowns, a video show, games and prizes, and face painting for the kids. Easter goodies such as chocolate eggs, bunnies and cakes will be on sale at the Jeepney Deli Shop until April 20.

Manila Diamond Hotel will feature a **lunch buffet** at Palm Court Cafe on Easter Sunday. For entertainment, there will be a bubble show, face painting, balloon twisting, games and magic tricks and an Easter egg hunt. For details, call 526-2211 loc. 1520.

Atbp

National Museum director Corazon S. Alvina invites children 7-12 years old to join this year's **summer activities**: Mask Making (April 15), Jewelry Making (April 30), Pottery Making (May 16), Papier Mache (May 23), and Story Telling/Treasure Hunting (June 20). The workshops are on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration fee for each activity is P50 inclusive of materials and entrance to the Museum of the Filipino People. For reservations, call 527-0278 or 524-3005.

Penuche Baking School located at Lot 13, Blk 5, Guijo St., North Ridege Park, Sta. Monica, Novaliches is holding a series of **hands-on training in baked goods productions**, bakery management, recipe formulation and baking science. Fee is inclusive of training materials, ingredients and take-home samples. For reservations, call 938-3639.

Balik-bayan, a summer *lakbay-aral* organized by the teachers of the Ateneo de Manila High School. Visit Intramuros, Corregidor and Tirad Pass and get to know the stories behind these historic places. Learn basic mountaineering, photography and other skills to make your travels more memorable. For details, call 426-6001 loc. 6157, 6158 or 6288.

The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation is holding workshops on **Basic and Advanced Photography** for four consecutive Sundays starting April 20 at the Yslas Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Register at 7/F, Comfoods Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City or call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

The British Council in collaboration with Independent Schools Council is offering two **scholarships for Filipino students** between the ages of 9 and 15. The scheme offers schoolchildren the chance to study and live in a UK boarding school from June 2 to 27. Application is open to Filipino students who belong to the top 5 percent of his/her grade school level. He/she should be fluent in oral and written English and should have good interpersonal relationship skill. An academic reference preferably from the school adviser or principal is also required. For details, call Juliet Enriquez at 914-1011 to 14. Deadline is April 15.

Sacred Heart Schools will be offering **Vicky Veloso-Barrera's Tiny Kitchen for Pre-school.** Children ages 3-7 will have a chance to learn Vicky's fun and easy, safe and no-bake recipes that include dishes like Dinosaur Salad and Oreo Brownies. The first course starts on April 21. For reservations, contact Sacred Heart San Lorenzo, Makati at 810-8506; San Antonio Plaza Arcade in Forbes Park at 840-2632; Sun Valley, Parañaque at 823-1348; Shangri-La Edsa Mall at 636-1227, and Malabon at 447-3371.

The Center for Health and Creative Arts announces the following **summer workshops and activities** to be held at the 2/F PhilDHRRA National Office, 59 Salvador St., Varsity Hills Subd., Loyola Heights, QC: Poetry as Healing Art (April 28, 29 and May 2), Basic Holistic Yoga (May 8, 15, 22 and 29), Group Meditation (May 16), Arnis, Kali, Kuntao and other traditional Filipino martial arts (May 10, 17, 24 and 31), Sheng Zhen Healing Qi-Gong Part II and Shibashi Taiji-Qigong (May 10, 17, 24 and 31), Improve Your Eyesight Naturally free intro lecture on May 10, actual workshop will be on May 17, 24, 31 and June 7. For reservations, call 434-5381 or text 0919-7091436.

Kids Acts Philippines offers an **acting, singing and dancing workshop** for children, teens and special acting class for adults. Workshop starts April 22 and ends June 7 at the Philippine Opera Company Music Studio, 5/F, SJG Centre, 8461 Kalayaan Avenue (Rockwell Drive), cor. Don Pedro St., Bel-Air, Makati City. For details, call 896-7656.

Gather the family and hop on over to **The Richmonde Hotel** for a relaxing retreat this Lenten season with thrilling discounts on room accommodations, fun activities for kids and a sumptuous Easter Sunday luncheon buffet. For inquiries, call 638-7777.

Tropicana Apartment Hotel in Malate, Manila allows guests to savor great summer moments with its special Easter room rates from April 17-20. The Easter Getaway room packages can be availed for Tropicana's recently refurbished one- or two-bedroom suites. Special treats are also in store for kids. For reservations, call 525-5555.

Join the 3K, 5K or 10K categories of the **Earth Day Run for the Environment** on April 27. Assembly is at the Luneta Grandstand at 5 a.m. Prizes will be given for the best environmental costume, the largest contingent (for organizations, clubs, offices or barangays) and winners in the parlor games. Registration is until April 22 at the Race Office, Vasquez Madrigal Building, Annapolis St., Greenhills. For details, call 415-2227.

Nyoy Volante performs every Wednesday at Hard Rock Café

Learn the art of magic from Jolly the Magician through a Junior Magicians Workshop open to kids 4 to 12 years old. Classes start April 21. For details, call Sacred Heart School at 810-8506. For private lessons, call (0917)383-5670.

The Midtown Hotel will present a **theatrical show** featuring Bible-related stories on April 20, 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Intramuros Ballroom. A prize-filled Easter Egg Hunt will follow. Ticket price inclusive of lunch buffet. For reservations, call 526-7001 loc. 6881.

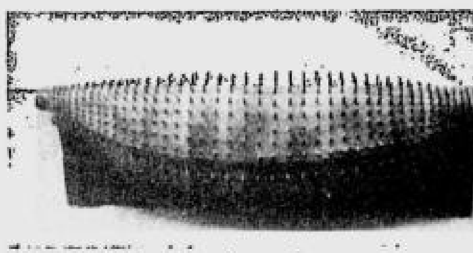
The hunt is on for the golden and silver egg at Manila Galleria Suites as it presents **The Hunting Party**, an Easter Egg Hunt on April 20, 10 a.m. at the Manansala Hall. Come as your favorite animal and grab the best costume prize. There will be an exotic bird and reptile show, dog and monkey show, and a puppet show. Ticket price inclusive of lunch buffet. For details, call 633-7111 ext. 7410.

The observance of Holy Week is the theme of a **photo contest** open to members of camera clubs affiliated with the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation from April 13-20. Contest subjects include the religious and pseudo-religious practices, rites, dramatizations, costumes, decor, participants, spectators, and other sights related to Holy Week. For accreditation inquiries, call 813-7420 or 843-5341. Deadline for submission of entries is May 31, 2 p.m. Participants must use Fujicolor or YKL films.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines announces it **summer music offerings** for beginning, intermediate and advanced students to be conducted by principals and current members of the Philippine Philarmonic Orchestra. Courses offered are lessons in violin, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, percussion and drums, harp and piano. There will also be voice lessons and courses in band conducting. Registration is ongoing. Classes start April 22. For details, call 832-2314 or 832-1125 loc. 1608.

Vicky Veloso-Barrera brings her Tiny Kitchen for Pre-School at Sacred Heart Schools this summer

The Heritage Gallery in Megamall is conducting **workshops** in painting, drawing, terra cotta, sculpting, puppetry every Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. For details, call 634-2436. Another workshop on terra cotta, mosaic making and pastillas wrapper making is also held at Museo Pambata every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2-5 p.m. For inquiries, call 523-1797/98.

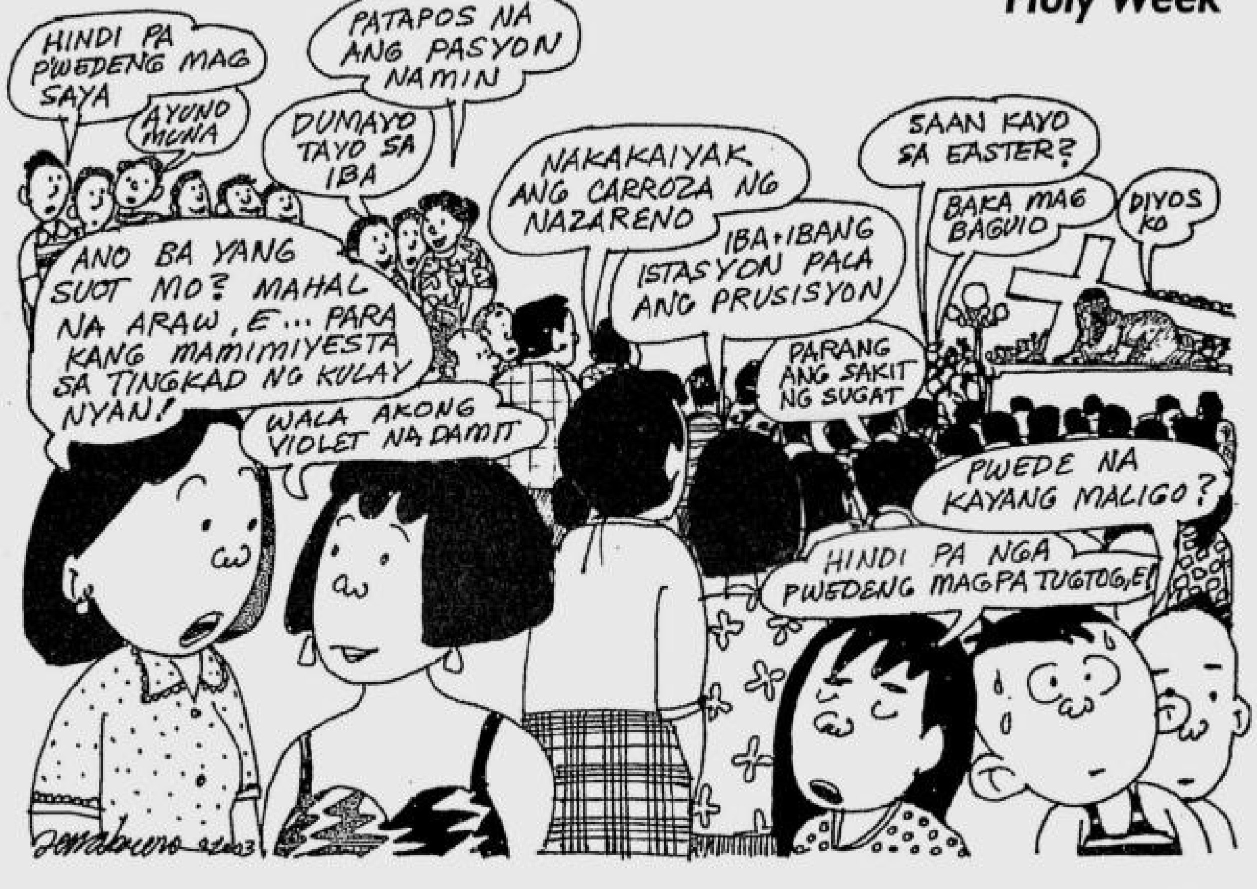


"Durian," mixed media work by Roberto Feleo, on exhibit at the Drawing Room

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Holy Week



HINDI PA PWEDENG MAG SAYA
AYUNO MUNA
PATAPOS NA ANG PASYON NAMIN
DUMAYO TAYO SA IBA
ANO BA YANG SUOT MO? MAHAL NA ARAW, E... PARA KANG MAMIMIYESTA SA TINGKAD NG KULAY NYAN!
WALA AKONG VIOLET NA DAMIT
NAKAKAIYAK ANG CARROZA NG NAZARENO
IBA-IBANG ISTASYON PALA ANG PRUSISYON
PARANG ANG SAKIT NG SUGAT
SAAN KAYO SA EASTER?
BAKA MAG BAGUIO
DIYOS KO
PWEDE NA KAYANG MALIGO?
HINDI PA NGA PWEDENG MAGPA TUGTOG, E!

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

X-manila

The **Summer Deli**, a food and beverage fair, will be held at the Plaza Robinsons Atrium of Robinson Mills Pampanga (Olongapo-Gapan Road, San Fernando City) until April 25 to be hosted by Philtrade Exhibits. The fair brings major producers of food and beverage in Pampanga especially the famous longanisa, tocino, pastries and other preserved sea products. Also joining the exhibits are select food and beverage manufacturers from Bulacan, Ilocos, Bicol and Pangasinan. For details, call Philtrade at 820-7879 or 820-1570.

Hari ng mga Hari, a full-length play on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, will be shown on April 16, 7:30 p.m. at the St. Michael Archangel Minor Basilica Grounds in Tayabas, Quezon. For details, call (042)373-4194.

The **Samar National School Grand Alumni Homecoming** will be held on April 21-27 at the school grounds in Catbalogan, Samar. The week-long affair will be hosted by Class '77. Highlights of the affair are the parade of classes and their respective floats, testimonial dinner for the silver and golden jubilarians (Classes 1978 and 1953), alumni ball and beach party. For details, call Vilma Laurel at 373-9526 (residence) or 981-7297 (office).

The **Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops** will hold its summer sessions with 24 separate courses at the Development Academy of the Philippines Tagaytay Complex. Each course is a one-week intensive, hands-on training. Courses on April 21-25 include Video as an Imaging Tool, How to be an Effective On-cam Talent, How to Create a Winning Television Magazine, Basic Still Photography, Basic Publications Design and Layout, Advance Publication Layout and Crisis Management. Courses on May 5-9 are Light Design for Video and Film, Production Design, Scriptwriting for Feature Film, Talent Management, How to Design a Coffee-table Book, Drawing Superheroes the Marvel Way and How to Draw Animé Style. For inquiries, call 925-1915 or 925-1916.

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